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Further Reportage on CIS Leaders Summit 15 Apr

Yeltsin Addresses Leaders

LD1504190494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1628 GMT 15 Apr 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] The planned summit of the Council of the heads of CIS member-states was held on Friday in Moscow. Leaders of all CIS member-countries attended the sitting with the exception of Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev who was not able to come to Moscow due to his illness. Kazakhstan's Vice President Erik Asanbayev represented the republic at the summit. Russian President Boris Yeltsin addressed the plenary sitting of the Council of the Heads of States and Council of the Heads of CIS Governments. The whole text of his speech is presented below.

"First of all, let me congratulate the Republic of Moldova on joining the Commonwealth of Independent States. The corresponding documents have been signed just before the beginning of this sitting. I also want to congratulate Chairman of Belarus' Supreme Soviet Mechyslaw Ivanovich Hryb on his first participation in the sitting of the Council of the heads of CIS states.

Today we are due to discuss a wide spectrum of issues. What primarily concerns us is a package of decisions aimed at the practical implementation of the treaty on economic union. Economic union is the basis of the Commonwealth. The level of integration of CIS countries in general will finally depend upon our advances in this direction.

Today the sitting of the heads of states has approved two decisions of principal significance. The first one concerns the creation of a commission for the economic union. It should become a working instrument to ensure the efficient activity of the economic union of the Commonwealth's countries.

Another decision gives "a green light" to the creation of a free trade zone. In accordance with this decision all customs tariffs, taxes, and non-tariff restrictions in mutual trade between CIS countries will be gradually abolished. Thanks to this we shall prepare the ground for a stage-by-stage transfer to the customs union.

These moves are not the conclusion but the beginning of economic integration. We must think over how to prevent a dual threat—an uncontrolled industrial recession, on the one hand, and hyperinflation, on the other. Today we have great opportunities for this.

We have also given our backing to Ukraine's joining the economic union as an associate member. I believe that given Ukraine's economic potential this decision will be of great importance both for this republic and for other members of the economic union.

I'd like to specially mention the documents on the unification of Russia's and Belarus' monetary systems signed several days ago. For the first time integration has risen to a qualitatively new level in the framework of the Commonwealth. I think that this way is acceptable not only for Russian-Belarusian relations but for relations between other states of the Commonwealth as well. If they demonstrate their readiness then we shall find appropriate practical solutions.

To speak about Russia and Belarus, I'd like to stress that we act in strict correspondence with the will of our peoples aimed at a maximum closening of our states.

We are ready to transfer to a combination of various forms of integration. Russia is ready to determine legal dimensions of mutual relations with those who are interested in closer interaction. It will cooperate on another basis with those who adhere to another position.

We put forward one major provision—any agreement should be fulfilled. Russia is ready to make certain concessions minding the pressing interests of our partners. However, any concessions should be mutual. Otherwise, we shall not be able to gain a mutually beneficial cooperations.

Strengthening of economic union necessitates a close interaction in other spheres as well.

First of all we must care about a reliable guarding of the Commonwealth's external borders, strengthening of stability inside our countries and their defense from any outside threat. In addition, any economic community inevitably has common interests in the foreign economic sphere too.

The Council of the heads of states discussed these issues and came to a common point of view.

The head of states have confirmed a new provision on the Council of Defense Ministers. It takes into consideration structural changes which happened over the last time in the field of military cooperation. The Council heard the information of the Chairman of the CIS frontier forces commanders on the state of cooperation in the sphere of CIS external borders' guarding. We have reached principal agreements on this issue. The parties have signed a memorandum on the participation of the Commonwealth's states in the guarding of the external border in the Central-Asian region.

When we understood that there are certain threats to the Commonwealth's security in the Caucuses, we reached agreements with the Republic of Georgia and Republic of Armenia on Russia's participation in the guarding of their external borders. While discussing this issue, we expressed the hope that Azerbaijan would join our joint efforts aimed at guarding the Commonwealth's external border.

The memorandum on join measures providing for guarding external borders of CIS states with Ukraine and

Belarus is also of great importance. The documents is ready for signing. [sentence as received]

We are also ready to cooperate with Moldova on this issue.

We have discussed such acute problems as the settlement of the Karabakh and Georgian-Abkhazian conflict and adopted documents of political nature in order to give a serious impetus to the settlement process. Today the heads of CIS states also paid attention to the situation in Tajikistan. The sitting passed a resolution to conclude the development of a constituent agreement and charter of the Aid Fund to the republic of Tajikistan, this decision expresses our common support to the inter-Tajik political dialogue.

Simultaneously the heads of states agreed to the proposals prepared by the Foreign and Defense Ministers on additional measures aimed at the stabilization of the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border. The term of the collective peacekeeping forces' staying in Tajikistan has been prolonged till the end of 1994.

In response to Kyrgyzstan's address the Council of the heads of states also passed a decision to render assistance to this country which seriously suffered from natural disasters early this year.

On the whole we think that we have reached a new stage in the development of the Commonwealth. The integration strives of CIS states start to be implemented by practical deeds. Russia will not oppose the creation of inter-state structures, however, we need to precisely determine their prerogatives.

The Commonwealth is getting stronger and stronger as an efficient regional association of states which is interested in a close cooperation with the UN, CSCE, and other international organizations. Currently we see the need to coordinate our foreign policy as well. The Commonwealth is able to actively collaborate with our partners in the West, in the South, and in the East. The main thing is to actively defend joint interests of the Commonwealth and to participate in global and regional political problems.

This is the way along which we should go forward in the interests of the peoples of our countries, in the interests of the Commonwealth as a whole.

Paraphrasing the old saying, we say now the following: "Let us take as much cooperation as meets the interest of each of our states."

On the eve of the summit the majority of the leaders stressed the priority of the economic block of the agenda which includes 15 issues (sees Presidential Bulletin No 72). According to many heads of the states, in particular, Eduard Shevardnadze (Georgia), Askar Akayev (Kyrgyzstan), Mircea Snegur (Moldova), Emomali Rakhmonov (Tajikistan), the Inter-state Economic Committee of the Economic Union of CIS countries can play a special role in the strengthening of the integration processes.

On the conclusion of the meeting the head of the Belarussian government Vyacheslav Kebich expressed dissatisfaction with the fact that instead of signing documents on the creation of an inter-state economic committee in charge of coordination of economic work of CIS countries and adoption of decisions in this sphere, the summit has created "an amorphous" body under the coordinating-consultative committee-commission of the economic union which has purely consultative functions.

Kebich believes that under the absence of the inter-state economic committee CIS economic union "has not worked and will not work."

Leaders Hold News Conference

LD1604103194 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0530 GMT 16 Apr 94

[News conference by CIS heads of state following CIS summit in Moscow on 15 April; from the Mir TV and Radio Company "On the Air" Program—recorded]

[Text] [Russian President Boris Yeltsin] Esteemed journalists, ladies and gentlemen, we are starting the news conference with the CIS heads of state after the meeting of the Council of Heads of Government and the Council of Heads of State.

The latest meeting has just ended. I would like to express satisfaction with its results. The meeting took place in a businesslike and constructive atmosphere. It was characterized by a high level of mutual understanding. The participants in the meeting congratulated Moldova whose parliament has ratified the Commonwealth's constituent documents. I am pleased that Moldova has become a full member of the Commonwealth.

The meetings which have taken place over the past few days in Moscow have shown that our Commonwealth is to a very high degree a reality, that, in spite of the difficulties of establishing the Commonwealth, we are moving forward along the path of developing and deepening processes of integration based on new democratic principles and that the Commonwealth is vitally necessary to our peoples and states. And, finally, it is becoming more clear than ever before that the CIS is not simply one area of policy but its natural priority, including the natural priority of Russia's policy, dictated by the interests and requirements of the member countries and also by our common interests as we face the world.

The meeting of the heads of state examined 26 important issues, concerning cooperation in the military, foreign

policy and economic spheres and in protecting the CIS's external borders. It decided to continue collective measures within the framework of the CIS to stabilize the situation along the Tajikistan-Afghanistan border. In particular, the presence of collective peacekeeping forces in Tajikistan has been extended up to the end of the year.

The heads of state decided to render urgent and additional aid to Kirgizia [Kyrgyzstan] following the natural disasters suffered by that country. The heads of state were unanimous on the issue of CIS flashpoints, in that they must be extinguished. They adopted statements intended to expedite a settlement to the Karabakh and Georgia-Abkhazia conflicts.

At today's meeting, a memorandum on cooperation to protect the state borders of the Republic of Belarus, the Russian Federation, and Ukraine was agreed and signed.

Our states now have a basis for a constant interaction in this most important sphere. We would also welcome Moldova's signing of this memorandum. One of the significant results of this meeting is that decisions on launching the machinery of our economic union have been taken. I would like to note that Ukraine joined it as an associate member at this meeting. The decisions envisage a free trade zone being set up in the CIS; a commission of the economic union is being formed as a standing structure of the economic union.

Several agreements on economic cooperation were signed by the heads state. The agreement on the setting up of a free trade zone involves a gradual lifting of custom duties and taxes and tariff restrictions in the trade between the member countries. I think at the present stage we shall concentrate our main efforts on this aspect. This will ensure a closer interconnection of our economic systems on the market foundation.

On the whole, we look with considerable optimism at the CIS development prospects. The citizens of Russia are thankful to the heads of state for their decision that Russia should hold the chairmanship not for six months as was agreed before but until the end of 1994. It was decided that the next sitting of the Council of Heads of State should be held on 9 September.

Now I give the floor to Executive Secretary, Ivan Mikhaylovich Korotchenya.

[Korotchenya] Boris Nikolayevich, you have so adequately, so broadly covered the progress of our work that there is no need for me to add to your account, and I should think that we might switch over to answering questions. Go ahead.

[Yeltsin] Maybe we ought to list what we've signed.

[Korotchenya] Yes, let's list them.

[Yeltsin] Shall we?

[Korotchenya] Yes.

[Yeltsin] Let's list them. After all, it's very important, you understand, not only to Russia and the CIS countries, but also to the whole world. Go ahead.

[Korotchenya, reading from paper] Questions relating to the implementation of the treaty creating an economic union. There were three of them: on Ukraine's joining the economic union as an associate member—which has been mentioned; on the creation of a permanent body under the Commonwealth's coordinating consultative committee; and on the creation of free-trade areas.

On the constituent treaty creating a relief fund for the Republic of Tajikistan. These are questions which stem from instructions from the Council of Heads of State. On measures to ensure the relations of the Commonwealth of Independent States and its statutory bodies with international organizations and forums. Six—a statute on the CIS states' Defense Ministers' Council. On additional measures to stabilize the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border.

The third group of questions—questions of relations at the initiative of the Commonwealth's state statutory bodies: on cooperation in the field of the [word indistinct] preparation of the economy; on the duration of the presence of the collective peacekeeping forces in the Republic of Tajikistan; on the commander of the collective peacekeeping forces.

Information on the progress of talks was received by the Russian Federation from the Central Asian and Transcaucasian states on cooperation to protect the borders by third countries, and on the implementation of the memorandum of the heads of the Commonwealth states, dated 24 December 1993, on cooperation over protecting the external state borders. A declaration on observing the sovereignty and territorial integrity and inviolability of the borders of the CIS states.

There were several questions in the category of other business: on providing additional urgent assistance to the Kyrgyz Republic. On the flag and emblem of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

[Yeltsin] Show it to them.

[Korotchenya] I'll show it to you. [Unfolds flag and displays it]

On the chairmanship of the Commonwealth's statutory bodies. On the conclusion of agreements on the conditions for the stay of the executive secretariat of the Commonwealth of Independent States on the territory of the Republic of Belarus; and on the preparation of proposals for amendments to the basic document of the Commonwealth of Independent States. The question is somewhat broader, bearing in mind a proposal from Boris Nikolayevich.

This is a package of issues which was discussed by the heads of state. The heads of government discussed 22 issues. Is it necessary to announce them? No? Therefore, the third microphone.

[Grishchenko] Thank you. Grishchenko, INTERFAX. They say that in the framework of this summit Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin was going to have meetings with presidents of some CIS states. Have such meetings taken place, Boris Nikolayevich? If so, what was under discussion there? Thank you.

[Yeltsin] Yes, meetings did take place with those who asked for them. With a delegation and, accordingly, with the president of the Republic of Moldova, Mircea Ionovich Snegur. Then with the president of Azerbaijan, Heydar Aliyevich Aliyev. With Armenian president Levon Akopovich Ter-Petrosyan. And after the interval there will be a meeting between two delegations from Russia and Ukraine.

[Korotchenya] Microphone number four, please.

[Lenskiy] Lenskiy of the newspaper PRAVDA. Esteemed Boris Nikolayevich, what is your attitude in principle to Nursultan Nazarbayev's idea of setting up a Eurasian Union? Was this question discussed at the meeting of heads of state?

[Yeltsin] As Nursultan Abishevich Nazarbayev was, unfortunately, taken ill and as, therefore, we were unable to receive from him exhaustive information on this question, this question was not discussed.

[Korotchenya] Microphone number two.

[Semenov] Yuliy Semenov of Mayak Radio. You know that journalists are no more than intermediaries between you and the readers, listeners and viewers. People listen to you and watch you and many people will wonder: What will ordinary people, the inhabitants of any state of the Commonwealth, gain from your meeting today. Which of the presidents would like to answer this question? I beg your pardon.

[Yeltsin] I would be happy to reply but perhaps there are various opinions. Would you like to say something, Mircea?

[Snegur] I think that any of us could reply. Well, first of all, the signing of the agreement on the creation of a free economic zone shows the intentions and the ways to restore a single economic space which we so lack at the moment, that is, the removal of barriers obstructing the movement of output from East to West, West to East, North to South and so on. This obstructs everyone; it obstructs state enterprises, it obstructs the privatized enterprises, it obstructs private traders who also produce products one way or another. And at present a very great amount of output has piled up, seemingly, in all countries, in all enterprises which, because of these barriers practically have no outlet. I think that this is a matter of some importance for ordinary people. Because it provides the opportunity to earn some money. It provides the opportunity to have funds, to have money for the labor people have already put in. And I think that this is the most important, perhaps the most important thing in the economic documents which were signed today. That is how I see it.

[Yeltsin] Does anyone want to add anything?

[Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev] Can I add a few words?

[Yeltsin] Please, do.

[Akayev] I would like to say that ordinary people are particularly concerned that over the past years we might have lost our feeling of solidarity. A shining example is being set to the people, the ordinary people of Kyrgyzstan, who this spring suffered such catastrophe due to unprecedented natural disasters, landslips and spring flooding. And the decision by the heads of state, the special decision to show solidarity and help all the ordinary people of Kyrgyzstan who have lost their houses and homes, whom we've been forced to resettle, I think, shows that our commonwealth is becoming stronger and continuing its good traditions of solidarity of jointly solving such issues which arise in emergency situations. Thank you.

[Korotchenya] First microphone.

[Terekhov] Good afternoon. Terekhov, INTERFAX. Could you please say, every time you, esteemed presidents, adopt extremely important, almost historical, documents. But they are not being implemented because there has not been and there is not a rigid mechanism of responsibility for nonfulfillment. Do you intend to set up such a rigid mechanism now which will make a country responsible for not fulfilling its obligations?

And another thing, if I may. A paradoxical situation has arisen when two countries, members of the Commonwealth, in fact are in a state of war. Do you intend to help the two presidents who, although the names of their states begin with the same letter, are sitting at the oppositite sides of the room even here? Do you have any intention to help them to somewhow finally ensure that their peoples will not be fighting any more?

[Terekhov] Ivan Mikhaylovich, perhaps you can expand on this question?

[Korotchenya] Well, there is too much to say. First of all ...

[Yeltsin, interrupting] Well, the same question, please.

[Terekhov] To ask the presidents of Russia and Ukraine to be more precise: today you are meeting to discuss the situation in the Black Sea Fleet. In essence, what happened there was some sort of guerrilla tactics or an act of piracy. Please, explain your views and positions to us - or rather, to your peoples. We would like to know your views on what is happening there. Thank you.

[Yeltsin] Let us not complicate things now, before the meeting, they are complex as they are. We can answer this question only after we have met and discussed things

among ourselves. As regards to Nagornyy Karabakh and the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict, we adopted some concrete measures in order to make a breakthrough in this situation.

In regards to control, we decided to fully re-examine all the decisions taken by the CIS states from its very first sitting and after this the questions of procedure and control over implementation of these decisions will be subject to a special discussion by heads of the CIS states. And only after this the mechanism of, shall we say, enforcing the prompt implementation of the adopted decisions will be approved.

[Korotchenya] Do we need to add anything to this question? No? The fourth microphone, please.

[Chernukha] I have a question for the chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Tajikistan. Are you satisfied with the documents which have been signed today in connection with the protection of your state borders? My second question: I believe that you are opposed to the idea of creating a Eurasian Union; could you explain the reasons for your stance? Thank you. Marina Chernukha from Radio Rossii.

[Rakhmonov] In reply to the first question, yes. Today among the questions which were discussed by the heads of states four questions were discussed and signed on Tajikistan. In particular, there were questions about strengthening the Tajik-Afghan border. But we are going to call it the southern border of the CIS. It is not only the border of Tajikistan.

On the second question: I do not know where you got the information that I am an overt opponent of Nursultan Abishevich's [Nazarbayev] initiative. I, indeed, gave an interview in which I said that, yes, the idea is good but the CIS has not exhausted its possibilities and reserves. And we confirmed this today by putting our signatures to the documents which were adopted here today.

[Korotchenya] Thank you. Microphone number three, please.

[Uzbek President Islam Karimov] I would like to say something on this question.

[Korotchenya] Islam Abdughaniyevich, go ahead, please.

[Karimov] When the impression is created that one person puts forward an idea and then it is discussed at all forums and people are divided into opponents and supporters, I consider that this is not quite correct. Because, although the idea of a Eurasian Union has been put forward, it does not have any serious foundation. And, therefore, if you ask who is against it, we shall reply that we are all in favour. But serious thought needs to be given to the question of what lies behind it. It needs to be examined and good grounds need to be found because, as the experience of the existence of the CIS shows, and even the latest initiative, the creation of an economic union, which we are all in agreement with and which we are all moving towards, in step with one another, we are making great efforts and undertaking measures and we have discussed this question frequently at meetings of the heads of the states, even here, unfortunately, not everything is being resolved and not everything is so easy to resolve.

Therefore, I consider that it would be incorrect to throw aside the idea of strengthening the Commonwealth, primarily via economic structures, via economic union, when we have only got half-way—although we all put our signatures to this—and to put forward the new idea of a Eurasian Union. In general, it smacks of populism.

[Kazakh Vice President Yerik Asanbayev] Esteemed comrades, since the idea which Nursultan Abishevich [Nazarbayev] has put forward is arousing such great interest I consider it necessary to make a few comments. This idea was put forward in response to a question which was asked at a meeting held by the President of Kazakhstan at Moscow University.

We are now studying the reaction of politicians, not only at home but also abroad. The main newspapers and the mass media are reacting to this. This idea has been more clearly spelled out today in today's first edition of SNG-OBSHCHIY RYNOK ["CIS—Common Market"]. We are now preparing its systemic, integrated structure and probably it will be presented in this form at a meeting of the heads of state. I am saying this because this intention was mentioned indirectly at today's meeting of the CIS heads of state.

Moreover, you know that today there was discussion of the question of preparing the concept and specific mechanisms for the long-term integrated development of the CIS. I believe that this idea, after it has been made more specific will fit into or could well fit into, the framework of the instruction which the conference of heads of states gave today to the Coordinating Committee, to the Foreign and Defense Ministries.

Therefore, I think that this an idea which is a logical continuation of the process of integrating the CIS countries and it has not been produced out of thin air. I agree that this is a problem which is far from simple. But it has been dictated by life. Thank you.

[Korotchenya] Thank you. Microphone number three, please.

[Unidentified correspondent] Thank you. NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA. I have two questions. The first is to Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin and probably also to Eduard Amvrosyevich Shevardnadze. How should we understand today's agreement to strengthen the role of Russian peacekeeping forces in the Caucasus? Can you comment on this and these forces' role in Georgia? What is the opinion on this of the Georgian head of state?

And the second question is to Leonid Makarovich Kravchuk. Ukraine remains the sole member of the CIS that has joined the Economic Union as an associate member. Does this entail any particular status for Ukraine in the

CIS and how do your colleagues, Leonid Makarovich, view this status? Thank you.

[Yeltsin] We adopted a head of states' declaration on the Georgia-Abkhazia conflict. In principle, Russia, in preliminary consultations with Eduard Amvrosyevich [Shevardnadze], agreed to provide peacekeeping forces which will also include forces or observers from the UN and CSCE.

[Georgian Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze] I agree with what Boris Nikolayevich [Yeltsin] said. Well, journalists have an idea of what this means. I'll quote literally two phrases from that declaration, which we signed today and which, I think, has very considerable significance.

It says here: Affirming our commitment to the earliest solution to the problem of refugees, observance of human and national minority rights, the principle of the territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia and the securing of statehood for Abkhazia, the states of the Commonwealth of Independent States, signatories to the treaty on collective security, call on the Security Council of the United Nations Organization to resolve without delay the issue of whether to conduct peacekeeping operations in Abkhazia. That is an appeal to the Security Council.

Also, the Council for Collective Security expresses its willingness—if for whatever reason a solution is not forthcoming in the near future, and time for us is a very important, the decisive, factor at the moment because hundreds of thousands of refugees are suffering, in accordance with the spirit and principle of the treaty, which is designed to ensure the peaceful and safe development of the signatory states, and with the consent of the parties to the conflict—to introduce to the conflict zone peacekeeping forces consisting of military units of interested state signatories to the treaty.

I think that this is a very balanced and very serious approach to a problem that is highly acute not only for our republic but also for the entire region.

[Korotchenya] Thank you. Leonid Makarovich, please.

[Ukraine President Leonid Kravchuk] Everyone knows that the main trend of economic development within the framework of the CIS is integration, economic integration. This is not happening just within the framework of the CIS; it is a world-wide trend. The peoples and the states support this trend of economic integration.

The forms of integration could vary. The form adopted by the CIS is economic union. At the present stage Ukraine joined the economic union as an associated member, but it signs, as it did today, all the economic documents without exception. The question is not of integration per se, but whether conditions and circumstances under which this integration is taking place are equal.

In connection with this I should like to return to the questions raised here today. You see, the processes taking place in the CIS are not all the same. Some countries are getting closer together, others prefer to keep at a certain distance within this union. For example, the question of merging the monetary systems - like Russia and Belarus. This is a deeper level of integration than that of the Eurasian Union. If such processes go further, the Eurasian Union and the CIS will become unnecessary as there will be no need for them, as this is already somewhat broader than economic integration.

Therefore, in this situation Ukraine is an active and enterprising participant in the economic union.

[Korotchenya] Thank you. Microphone number two, please.

[Melnikova] Anna Melnikova of ITAR-TASS. My first question is to Boris Nikolayevich. Today you put forward the concept of further integration within the framework of the CIS. Could you please explain what precisely this will be. Will it be just economic integration or will there be some elements of political integration?

My second question is to all the participants in the collective security treaty: Do you plan to discuss joining NATO's Partnership for Peace program? Do you have any particular views on this? Do you consider it expedient to have some sort of common approach on this? Thank you.

[Yeltsin] We heard information from the Russian foreign minister, who is the chairman of the Council of Ministers of the CIS countries.

He was instructed, or rather the Council of Ministers was instructed, to draw up a long-term plan for further integration of CIS states in the political, and economic, and military-technical arenas.

[Unidentified speaker] Three councils; the defense ministers as well.

[Yeltsin] They and the defense ministers, yes. The Council of Defense Ministers. They have so far presented a document that is, I would say, rather modest. It consists of 10 headings which are not satisfactory and do not reflect our entire perspective on integration of CIS countries.

Therefore the Council of Heads of State decided to instruct the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the CIS and the Council of Ministers of Defense of the CIS to draw up a concept for further concentration of integration of the Commonwealth countries and, before the next meeting, submit it for broad discussion by the heads of state.

[Korotchenya] First microphone, please.

[Yakovlev] The Mir International Television and Radio Company, Yakovlev. We have not yet heard today from

the presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan. Eduard Amvrosiyevich [Shevardnadze] touched only on the fact—only read out what was adopted today in the documents concerning those calamities that have affected your peoples. The Mir television company has been showing what is taking place in these countries and has been showing not only actions connected with the fact that people are being killed. It has in addition been showing the refugees issue.

What can you say in respect of a peacekeeping mission and what specifically can you say today to those people and those ordinary families who are waiting first and foremost for your solution and not a solution by some or other foreign forces?

[Korotchenya] Geydar Aliyevich, please.

[Aliyev] First, I did not have a question. This is why I was not answering. In response to the comment by one of the correspondents that we are sitting in different places: I do not know why we have been put like this. I cannot see any particular procedure or principle about where we sit. We do not have a say in this. We sit where they tell us.

With regards to the conflict—or war—between Armenia and Azerbaijan, I have recently made an important address about which the journalists should know. I spoke about this issue today at the session of the heads of states. Therefore, I did not think it was necessary to talk about it here, especially now that a statement has been adopted on this question by the heads of states. However, because you are asking, I have to answer. Of course, it is not normal when Armenia and Azerbaijan—two states within the CIS—are at war with each other. This is an abnormal phenomenon that has no precedent in the world, I think. This does little for the reputation of the Commonwealth. I spoke about this at our meeting in Ashkhabad [Ashgabat] on 24 December and I was speaking about this at the summit today. We have discussed it there and, as a result, a statement on this question was adopted, as suggested by the CIS chairman, Russian President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin.

You have mentioned the problem of refugees. More than 1 million Azerbaijan citizens are now refugees, living in tents. These are not just Azerbaijan refugees driven from Nagorno-Karabakh; there are also refugees from seven regions surrounding Nagorno-Karabakh—the regions with a concentrated Azerbaijan population—which are now occupied by Armenian armed formations. In these regions everything was destroyed or plundered and a million people have fled to other regions of Azerbaijan to save their lives. Because we do not have a place for them, they live in tents, which we receive as part of humanitarian aid from various countries. The Iranian Islamic Republic has undertaken to provide 100,000 refugees with tents, food, and clothing. The Turkish Government has also pledged some help. International Arab and other organizations also help us. Of course, all this cannot be normal. I have been saying it all the time: This war has no prospects. We should put an end to this war. Twenty percent of Azerbaijan territory is occupied by Armenian armed formations. One cannot agree with this. This is not a way of achieving the goals that certain circles are trying to achieve. I made appeals on this matter to various heads of state and to Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin. I hope that the statement adopted by the heads of state today—which, incidentally, is the first one of its kind in CIS history—might help because it demands that heads of Armenia and Azerbaijan declare a cease-fire and cessation of all military actions. We are ready to stop hostilities at any time. We are suffering from aggression. The war is being waged on the territory of Azerbaijan, not Armenia. People are being killed. Of course, people are now being killed in this war on the Azerbaijani side and on the Armenian side. Over the past five days Armenian armed formations have been waging an intensive attack. Azerbaijanis are dying and Armenians are dying. This cannot be allowed.

In any event, we are doing, and will continue to do, everything we can to achieve a cease-fire, but the condition for this is that Armenian armed formations must leave occupied Azerbaijani territory.

I hope that this declaration by the CIS heads of state will help us resolve the issue.

[Korotchenya] Thank you, Geydar Aliyevich. Levon Akopovich, do you have something to say?

[Ter-Petrosyan] Naturally. Before replying to the specific question I must make one clarification because there is a mistake in the wording of the question and, by the way, even in the way the journalist's question has been worded. Things are presented as if there are two states within the CIS that are at war with each other. This is not the case. The war is taking place between Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan.

More than ten international documents have been adopted about the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict at the level of the UN Security Council, three resolutions, three statements, approximately a dozen CSCE documents, and statements by the EC. Not one of these documents names Armenia as a party to the conflict. I reject this categorically and with full responsibility. That is the first thing.

Second, specific plans exist for settling the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict: the CSCE plan, which was accepted by Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh and which was rejected by Azerbaijan. There is Russia's plan, which has been accepted, again, by Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh and which is rejected by Azerbaijan.

The CIS today adopted a declaration on this conflict, which is a kind of mandate, a mandate, for the Russian plan to resolve the conflict. The essence of the plan is the deployment of CIS disengagement forces in the conflict zone between Azerbaijani and Karabakh forces.

The fate of peace, the fate of the refugees, the fate of war and peace is in the hands of Azerbaijan. Everything depends on the political will of Azerbaijan. Armenia and Karabakh are ready, literally before you, now, at this table, to sign the agreement that Russia has drawn up.

[Korotchenya] Thank you.

[Shevardnadze] With your permission, I will give a clarification to the question asked. It should be borne in mind that within a state there could be conflicts that can be solved without outside assistance, as it were. Unfortunately, things have taken such a turn that from the very start the Abkhaz conflict has acquired an international nature, so to speak. This has entailed the necessary steps taken by the Georgian and Russian leadership, numerous agreements and accords on cease-fire and settlement to the conflict. Regrettably, they have failed to succeed, and these agreements have been violated. The question has now taken a very fundamental importance. The United Nations and the Security Council are constantly working on the problem, and Russia's positive mediating role can be seen very clearly. In my view, the fundamental statement of our Council today to demand once again that peacekeeping forces be introduced...[pauses] and if the Security Council fails to take an appropriate decision on this issue, then we have to put things in order relying on our own forces. I see this as a way out of an impasse. This is what I can say.

[Korotchenya] Thank you. The news conference is over, but there is time for one last question, from microphone three.

[Unidentified correspondent] Ostankino TV. I would like, however, to hear once again from the presidents who took part at the roundtable talks today—I do not know who will speak out. What guarantees do they see for today's accords precisely to be implemented, what guarantees? Are there any now? Not in some vague future but today, are there any guarantees today? Do you see them or not?

[Yeltsin] You see, the CIS Council of Heads of State is, after all, not the same as strict factory management. There are no factory director or his deputies where all instructions are complied with. Here we hold a council and discussion where a collective view is being developed, which is not straightforward. It is based on a compromise; it may suit some members and not suit others. So we cannot say that every decision will be rigorously complied with within strictly identified limits; this will not happen. Some decisions will be, of course, but other decisions will not. We have simply to outline this concord on some decisions, to agree on this concord, and then act jointly.

I believe that the majority of decisions—there were 26 of them adopted by the Council of Heads of State—are realistic.

But, what is the value of a decision alone about Nagorno-Karabakh? What is it worth? How many years has this war been going on? To think that the war will end and a settlement will be found immediately following our decision and discussions would be naive. There is a vast amount of work ahead for all of us to achieve a peaceful outcome there.

We are confident that we will achieve it jointly with Azerbaijan, jointly with Armenia, jointly with Russia, and other CIS states. The same is true about the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict. In other words, there are such issues that cannot be solved right away by simply signing a document. There are other issues, however, such as, for instance, the new provision on the Council of Defense Ministers, which we have approved. There are no problems or questions here at all. A decision has been made, and it will be complied with as well as a number of other decisions.

Thank you for the news conference, and good-bye.

Spokesman Terms Summit 'Successful'

LD1504130394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1222 GMT 15 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Anna Melnikova and Gennadiy Yezhov]

[Text] Moscow April 15 TASS—"The CIS summit, which is about to end here, can already be described as successful," presidential press secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov told a press conference at "President-Hotel" here today. He noted that the successful solution of the problem of guarding the external borders of the CIS testified to a new understanding of the idea of the commonwealth's unity. "It can already be said that we are nearing the finishing line. A joint memorandum on the participation of CIS members in the protection of the external borders in the Central Asian region and also a memorandum on the protection of external borders with Ukraine and Belarus has already been signed. Corresponding documents are ready to be signed."

"Thus," Kostikov said, "the system of a single guarded border is being restored. Moldova is expected to join this memorandum."

Asked about Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev's initiative to set up a Euro-Asian Union, Kostikov said with certainty: "As far as I known, this problem was not raised in any of the speeches as it was formulated by the Kazakh president."

Kostikov said that President Yeltsin rounded off the summit meeting by saying: "Let's take upon ourselves as much cooperation as it is in the interests of our states."

CIS Organizational Changes Approved

LD1504191794 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 15 Apr 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The present summit introduced several innovations to the organizational structure of the CIS. Leaders of CIS coordinating bodies—Vladimir Shumeyko, chairman of the Interparliamentary Assembly, Defense Council Chairman Pavel Grachev, Andrey Kozyrev, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Council, and Andrey Nikolayev, chairman of the Council of Commanders of CIS Countries' Border Troops—took part in its work for the first time. A one-year term was set today for the rotation of the leaders of the statutory bodies of the CIS. This means that Boris Yeltsin and Viktor Chernomyrdin will continue to carry out the functions of chairman of the Council of Heads of State and chairman of the Council of Heads of Government until 31 December 1994. The CIS heads of state also approved the symbols—the flag and emblem—of the Commonwealth of Independent States, viewing this graphic image as a powerful and developing tree, a chalice bringing people light and warmth, and wings of birds in a single formation. The next meeting will, therefore, be held under the sky blue flag of the CIS. That meeting is scheduled to take place on 9 September.

Economic Agreements Reached

PM1804105794 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 16 Apr 94 p 1

[Pavel Shinkarenko article under the "Commonwealth" rubric: "CIS Leaders Have Discussed Ways of Deepening Integration"]

[Text] The top two CIS councils—the Council of Heads of State and the Council of Heads of Government—began working in parallel yesterday morning at the Grand Kremlin Palace and the President Hotel in Moscow. Unlike the previous sessions in December, these were held with the active participation of delegations from Ukraine and Moldova, which announced their desire to affiliate to earlier accords on the Commonwealth. There was another innovation—for the first time Vladimir Shumeyko, chairman of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly, took part in this work.

Presumably it was the participation of the authorized representative of the legislative branch of power which helped to free the stranded ship of CIS business ties.

The participants in the "premiers' council," chaired by Viktor Chernomyrdin, head of the Russian Government, settled all 20 questions ahead of schedule. In the words of Vladimir Mashchits, leader of the Russian Federation Ministry of Cooperation [as published], the main achievements of the meeting may be considered the institution of a standing body—the Commission of the Economic Union—under the CIS Coordinating Committee and the signing of an agreement on a multilateral free-trade zone among Russia and all the other CIS states. "We are now transforming these bilateral treaties into multilateral ones," the minister stressed. In his opinion, this agreement could begin operating in the very near future. "It all depends on how long it takes each republic to fulfill all the legal requirements," he explained. A significant place among the package of documents signed by the premiers is occupied by the agreement on the development of production, credit and finance, insurance, and mixed transnational associations, which enshrines the obligation of the sides to ensure state support for cooperation among economic players in the CIS countries (regardless of forms of ownership). The draft concept of a payments union was also examined and some amendments were made to take into account the "distinctive character" of the former Soviet republics. Unlike the European interpretation of the concept, we are going to view it merely as a system of agreements on the reciprocal convertibility of national currencies. The document is essentially a program for the organization of payment and settlement relations among the CIS states with their own national currencies. On the basis of this concept a multilateral agreement on a payments union will be prepared before the end of the year.

Leaders Agree To Send Peacekeepers to Georgia

LD1504141294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1324 GMT 15 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow April 15—The CIS heads of state adopted a statement on the Georgian-Agkhazian conflict and Russia agreed to send its peace-keepers to the region where CSCE and UN observers will also be staying, Russian President Boris Yeltsin told a joint press conference of CIS heads of state on Friday.

Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze quoted several points from the statement which he thought were fundamentally important. Among them he listed an appeal to the UN Security Council to urgently decide on carrying out a peacekeeping operation in Abkhazia.

"If, for some reason, such a decision is not adopted in the near future, the CIS countries-parties to common defence treaty, are ready to send to the area their own peacekeeping forces upon agreement with the two warring sides", Shevardnadze said.

Leaders Comment on Eurasian Union

LD1504165594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1404 GMT 15 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow April 15 TASS—An initiative to create a Euro-Asian union put forward by Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev has evoked strong interest among journalists. However, according to Boris Yeltsin, the idea of the Euro-Asian Union was not discussed at the CIS summit on Friday since Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev was not present at the session because he was unwell and no concrete information on this problem was available.

According to Kazakh Vice-President Erik Esanbayev [name as received], who led the Kazakh delegation to the CIS summit, the idea of the formation of the Euro-Asian Union was suggested by life itself. "At present, we are watching the response to the idea made by politicians and the mass media," Esanbayev said, adding that a comprehensive programme for the formation of the Euro-Asian Union will be submitted by Kazakhstan at the next CIS summit.

Chairman of the Tajik Parliament, Emomali Rakhmonov, believes that the idea of the formation of the Euro-Asian union is a "good" one, but "the possibilities of the CIS have not been fully used up yet, which was confirmed once again by signatures of the Commonwealth presidents put under adopted documents," he said.

Uzbek President Islam Karimov shares the opinion of the Tajik parliament chairman, saying that "the idea of the Euro-Asian Union does not have any serious foundation whatsoever." He pointed that it is necessary to persistently carry through the idea of strengthening the CIS, primarily by enhancing economic integration and creating an economic union. "Therefore, it would not be correct to leave the matter of strengthening the CIS half-finished and put forward a new initiative," Karimov said.

Asked whether agreements reached by heads of the CIS have been efficiently fulfilled since the day of the CIS formation, Yeltsin said that a decision was adopted on Friday to check whether the discipline of carrying out these agreement was observed.

Leaders' Views on Union Examined

PM1804094794 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Apr 94 pp 1-2

[Igor Lenskiy report: "From Economic Union to Eurasian Union. 15th CIS Heads of State Meeting Held at President Hotel Yesterday"]

[Text] The main participant in the summit was...Kazakhstani President Nursultan Nazarbayev, who did not attend it. His idea of setting up a Eurasian union—which has left a big fat question mark over the entire concept of the CIS—was at the center of attention of the heads of state. But...behind the scenes and at the press conference. Dodging a direct answer to my question, B. Yeltsin said: "Given that Nursultan Abishevich was unwell, we were unable to obtain full information from him and, therefore, we did not officially discuss it."

E. Shevardnadze believes that the idea is interesting and thought should be given to how to implement it. V. Chernomyrdin said that it would be good to know what the Nazarbayev proposals consist of. The idea of reintegration was enthusiastically received by the leaders of Belorussia [Belarus] and Kirghizia [Kyrgyzstan]. Conversely, there was a clearly negative attitude from the Turkmen and Uzbek presidents. S. Niyazov, for instance, agrees only to consultative Commonwealth status and rules out any supranational superstructure. I. Karimov called Nazarbayev's scheme incorrect and populist. Reflecting the official view, KHALQ SOZI, Uzbekistan's main newspaper, noted on the eve of the summit that, "politicians whose repertoire consists of songs about the indestructible Union are reminiscent of doctors who for some reason hold their meeting in a morgue."

Admittedly, there is no need to bury the Union—which lives in our hearts and minds. One cannot fail to notice in Nazarbayev's idea a basic thought which reflects the sad experience of recent years—any attempts to organize economic ties within the CIS will be ineffective if the countries are not voluntarily strengthened by political bonds. Without having received a clear response to his idea, the Kazakhstani president did not come to Moscow (which was to be expected from his statements in Japan), clearly believing that further discussions on an unprincipled basis would be pointless.

The course of the Moscow meeting confirmed Nazarbayev's skepticism. There were no sensations. The only more or less mature scheme to have emerged in two years of intra-CIS waffle—the economic union—was confirmed. But let's take a look at events through the eyes of the man in the street. Has life become any easier? Is there more food in the stores? Have prices fallen? Unfortunately, the confusion over the new formation (which does not exist in "reality") is profoundly abstract in nature. Now that the process has become at least slightly systematic the Interstate Economic Committee (IEC) has been set up. A Commonwealth flag has appeared—a sun set among many hands on a blue background.

The first step to unification may possibly be the creation of a free trade zone. Unless the agreement remains purely on paper, customs duties, taxes, and levies will gradually disappear. The Commonwealth countries will be seen as a single international economic unit [subyekt]. But there is little future for the approved concept for a payments union based on diverse national currencies. You will be told that by any Ukrainian peasant who sells his food cheaply at Moscow's Kiev Station, but for rubles! From now on Ukraine is an associate member of the economic union.

Among the documents signed we would highlight the concept of safeguarding the rights of ethnic, linguistic, and religious minorities. The initiative was taken by Kirghiz [Kyrgyz] President Askar Akayev, who has sincerely and deeply felt the collapse of the great power and has been making a great deal of effort to protect ethnic Russians. Russia will not be found wanting if it is a question of a united security system, the settling of local conflicts within the CIS, or the rebuffing of foreign enemies. Colonel-General Valeriy Patrikeyev has been appointed the new commander of the collective peacekeeping forces in Tajikistan. Colonel-General Boris

Pyankov, who has honorably done his duty, is returning to Moscow as deputy commander of the CIS Joint Armed Forces.

Thus, the direction of progress has been chosen—the recreation of the Union, first as an economic union and later as a Eurasian union. It will not be easy—building is not as easy as destroying. Many people are convinced that the goal will be attained only by the next generation of politicians, who have not been besmirched by the shame of the Belovezhskaya Forest Agreement.

Kazakh Premier Predicts Support for Union

LD1504173994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1521 GMT 15 Apr 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: reports by diplomatic correspondents Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy, and others]

[Text] The former Soviet republics will not be capable of overcoming the situation they are in separately. The way out provides for support of the initiative on establishment of a Eurasian union put forward by Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev. This was suggested by Kazakh Foreign Minister Tuleutay Suleymenov in an interview with Interfax.

Suleymenov clarified that the Kazakh president's proposal meant that the economy must finally prevail over the politics. "The CIS in its present framework does not work. Its documents (there are already more than 400 of them adopted) are not carried out. If two, three or four states interested in a close cooperation join the Eurasian union, it will work," Suleymenov suggested.

He said many people were worrying that establishment of over-national organizational structures might violate the sovereignty. "However, Kazakhstan is not afraid of this. That is why President Nazarbayev has put forward this initiative," he added.

Suleymenov is certain that the CIS states will back the Kazakh initiative in the near future "some earlier, some later." "Definite mechanisms of interaction do exist. There is no use to reinvent the wheel. For instance, there is the European Union [EU] is it not an example which should be followed? This is a single customs and economic space with inter-state banks and mutual settlement. By the way, the sharp issue on dual citizenship would be resolved." One would be able to change the citizenship freely, Suleymenov stressed.

Suleymenov believes that there is no reasonable alternative to the Eurasian union. "We need each other. Even now our former Soviet republics are more integrated with each other than the EU states. We must unite. We have separated in order to reunite on a new basis," Suleymenov suggested.

On the convention on human rights for ethnic minorities submitted for additional work on it, Suleymenov emphasized its importance and necessity for Kazakhstan.

"The draft convention was considered by the Council of Foreign Ministers for the third time already. We have repeatedly put forward our proposals and recommendations. Unfortunately, experts do not always take into consideration the recommendations of all the CIS states. That is why documents turn out to be incomplete. This happened once again," Suleymenov said.

He announced that the CIS foreign ministers had agreed to reconsider the convention in mid-May in order to discuss it once again and to submit it for approval by the heads of state. "We would like this document to work in favor not only of Kazakhstan but also in favor of the whole CIS. It concerns our burning issues. That is why the convention must be brought to conformity with the national legislation of all the CIS states," Suleymenov pointed out.

He stressed that Kazakhstan was also very interested in another document - the declaration on sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of the CIS states' borders. "These issues are of great importance for us now. We are satisfied with the adoption of this document," Suleymenov stressed.

Azerbaijan Seeks Dialogue With Armenia

LD1504190794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1854 GMT 15 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Shulman]

[Text] Azeri President Geydar Aliyev said here tonight he plans further dialogue with Armenian leader Levon Ter-Petrosyan but made no comments on the report claiming his meeting with Ter-Petrosyan in Moscow on April 16.

He said today's meeting with Russian President Boris Yeltsin focused on the search for possibilities of cease-fire and negotiations.

The Azeri demands are not excessive, said the Azeri leader. They include cease-fire in the conflict zone, liberation of the occupied Azeri lands and negotiations to discuss the status of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Aliyev is convinced that the two peoples are ready for cease-fire. He stressed he "has a reliable information that the absolute majority of Karabakh Armenians do not want to fight, they are forced to do it, to involve in the senseless war".

The bloodshed must be stopped as soon as possible to terminate sufferings of Azeri and Armenian mothers, and the Armenian and Azeri presidents must agree on this, said Aliyev.

He stressed he is basically not against contacts with Armenian representatives of Nagorno-Karabakh, however, being the Azeri president, do not plan to have equal negotiations with citizens of the state he heads.

Kyrgyz President Views Summit

LD1504214194 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1800 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] CIS heads of state signed a final package of documents at their meeting in Moscow today. Its basis is a bloc of economic agreements: on Ukraine's joining the economic union as an associate member; on creating an economic union commission; and on forming a free trade zone. In addition, a declaration was approved on the observance of sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the inviolability of Commonwealth borders.

In an interview with our correspondent, President of Kirghizia [Kyrgyzstan] Askar Akayev expressed satisfaction with today's meeting between heads of state. In his view, the meeting fulfilled its main task.

[Begin Akayev recording] First, it is the creation of a permanently functioning committee. Or rather, the heads of government introduced such an amendment—an economic commission that will be located in Moscow and will monitor the implementation of adopted agreements on trade and economic cooperation. CIS bodies are at last appearing that could develop in the future into an effective mechanism for implementing agreements. [end recording]

Despite the fact that Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev's proposal to set up a Eurasian union was not examined today, Akayev said that he wholly supports this idea.

[Begin Akayev recording] I see it as the foreseeable future of our CIS. If the mechanisms for cooperation laid down by the CIS are implemented to a significant extent, we will arrive at a Eurasian union. [end recording]

For his part, Boris Yeltsin made special note of the agreement signed in Moscow today on extending the term for CIS peacekeeping forces in Tajikistan, and also the joint statements on the situation in Abkhazia and Nagornyy Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabakh]. The next session of heads of state will take place on 9 September.

New CIS Economic Weekly Published

LD1504141994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1052 GMT 15 Apr 94

[By Business-TASS]

[Text] Moscow April 15 TASS—The first issue of a new economic weekly entitled "CIS: COMMON MARKET" was released on Friday timed to coincide with another CIS summit which opened in Moscow today.

The weekly was prepared with the assistance of the ITAR-TASS news agency. The aim of the new newspaper is to organise common information space in the economic sphere.

A decision to publish the weekly was adopted by heads of government of the 12 Commonwealth States in Ashgabat last December.

CSCE Says Russian Troops Must Leave Baltics by 31 Aug

WS1504184994 Tallinn BNS in English 1502 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Tallinn, Apr 15, BNS—The overwhelming majority of the world's most influential countries at a CSCE session in Vienna on Apr. 14 made it clear that Russian troops must leave Estonia and Latvia by Aug. 31, 1994, the Estonian Foreign Ministry press office says.

Support for the Baltics' demand was expressed by the representatives of the European Union, the United States, the Nordic countries and countries of Central Europe. They also underscored that Russia had to abide by the commitments she had taken at international level, and that setting additional conditions for pulling out troops was unacceptable under the international law.

The CSCE meeting also criticized the Apr. 5 decree by Russian President Boris Yeltsin on establishing military bases in the CIS and Latvia. A demand was voiced that Yeltsin revoke the document.

Russia has announced that mentioning Latvia in the document was an oversight, which by now has been corrected, and that no military bases are to be set up in that Baltic country. Russia has also defined the radar station to remain under its control for a few more years in Skrunda, Latvia, as a civilian facility.

The issue of Russian troop withdrawal was raised at the meeting by Estonia, who also brought to the meeting's attention the results of its 18th round of bilateral talks with Russia, having passed with no progress.

Russian representatives in Vienna answered by quoting the position that Russia has stuck to at the latest rounds of talks with Estonia, the Foreign Ministry press office says. Moscow demands that Estonia granted permanent residence permits unconditionally to all retired Russian military and their family members in Estonia, and paid 23 million USD to build houses for the repatriated officers.

The Russian delegation declined to comment on the Apr. 5 decree of President Yeltsin.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 16 Apr

LD1604062594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0544 GMT 16 Apr 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow April 16 TASS— NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA (independent newspaper) on the CIS summit:

"The economic integration of CIS member-countries proceeds perhaps more successfully than the resolution of many regional conflicts. The fact that the bulk of the package of issues considered dealt with the situation in the Republic of Tajikistan and the Transcaucasus shows that the Russian Federation tries to apply all CIS instruments to somehow secure the powers of its troops at flashpoints and share responsibility with ex-Soviet republics".

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI believes that "one can view as the main achievements of the summit the establishment of a permanently functioning agency—a commission for economic union affairs—at the CIS coordinating consultative committee and the signing of an agreement between Russia and all the CIS countries on a multisided free trade area".

Referring to remarks by Vladimir Mashits, Russian minister for cooperation, the newspaper points out: "The implementation of this agreement may begin soon".

PRAVDA on the CIS summit outcome:

"There were no sensations. The only more or less mature undertaking—the establishment of an economic union underwent development. The establishment of a free trade area will possibly become the first step towards reunification.

"Thus, the vector of the movement has been chosen: to recreate the union, an economic one at first, and subsequently a Euro-Asian one."

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (Red Star) carries an interview with Yuriy Meshkov, the first-ever president of the Republic of the Crimea.

In response to a question about the Crimean president's view of the future of the Black Sea Fleet and its status, Meshkov said: "The fleet should be Russian, since Ukraine is not in a position to maintain it... I think the Black Sea Fleet has been and remains the guarantor of stability in the Crimea and an important element of the balance of forces in the south European region."

TRUD on the birth centenary of former Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchov:

"The transformation era of Khrushchov days created a culture medium which brought forth people who arrived at conclusions about the essence of administrative socialism, its historical prospectlessness and the need to wind up the experiment on its basis and launch a quest for new principles for the life of millions of people".

RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA on Khrushchov's birth centenary:

"Thousands of innocent people who were subjected to repressions are grateful to Khrushchov for the regained freedom and rehabilitation.

"And still, under Khrushchov, we began to be dependent on overseas bread. Prices began to move upwards, and haphazard reorganisations were launched. In such affairs, associates recede into the background, leaving the leader confronted with the social discontent."

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA carries an article the writer of which points out that, to his mind, there is still the need for a long, thorough and impartial analysis of everything that was done by Nikita Khrushchov, one of the most distinctive and complex politicians of the 20th century".

ITAR-TASS Reviews 17 Apr 'Itogi' Program

LD1804061894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0458 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow April 17 ITAR-TASS—Russian independent television's Sunday analytical programme Itogi opened its last issue with a series of reports about the abrupt aggravation of Russian-Ukrainian relations caused by the occupation by Ukrainian commandos of some Black Sea Fleet targets.

The incident was eventually settled and the presidents of the two countries, Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kravchuk, reached an agreement on Black Sea Fleet. The agreement evoked "interpretations which differed in principle", the Itogi host said.

According to Ukrainian Defence Minister Vitaliy Radetskyy, the agreement reached is evidence that "Russia acknowledged that the Russian Federation and Ukraine are equal partners."

Black Sea Fleet Commander Admiral Eduard Baltin said in an interview that "up to date Ukraine owes the Black Sea Fleet more than 17 billion roubles", which is a clear sign that Ukraine is "trying to live on somebody else's account." Speaking about last week's events, the admiral said they reflect the intention "to cover up the present economic situation with political ambitions".

The unification of the monetary systems of Russia and Belarus, the agreement on which was signed last week, has evoked mixed reaction in both countries, the Itogi host said.

According to Yegor Gaydar, the leader of Russia's Choice, "this is a purely political decision, and the economy was sacrificed to politics".

State Duma Deputy Sergey Glazyev said "the unification of the monetary systems must be followed by a transition to a customs union and further integration".

Yabloko coalition Leader Grigoriy Yavlinskiy said there can be no "clear-cut response to the agreement signed because its specifics are not known".

Public opinion poll conducted on order from Itogi revealed that 36 per cent of those polled favoured the

unification of the monetary systems of the two republics, while 41 per cent said it should not be done.

"If the reached accord eventually strengthens inflation in Russia, the government will be in for much trouble," Itogi concluded.

As concerns Belarus [Byelorussia], its former leader Stanislav Shushkevich, who has already joined the race for presidency in the republic, criticised the agreement, stressing that it makes no mention "of the Chernobyl catastrophe, which claims 15 per cent of all budget allocations in the republic every year".

Itogi announced that the Commonwealth summit, which ended in Moscow, adopted a number of documents, mainly recommendations, which have no direct effect. According to Boris Yeltsin, who spoke at the closing press conference, "the CIS is not a rigid factory management".

As concerns decisions in the military field, Itogi noted that "judging by all appearances, Russia will have to shoulder the main burden". "The bulk of the tasks has fallen to the share of Russia," Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev said.

Both Itogi and Voskresenye reported on the centenary of Nikita Khrushchev and stressed the contradictory and extraordinary character of his activity.

A public opinion survey ordered by Itogi, revealed that 37 per cent of those polled recall Khrushchev's role in exposing the cult of the personality (37 per cent), the large-scale cultivation of maize (24 per cent), country-wide housing construction (24 per cent), as well as with the launch of the first artificial Earth satellite, the first manned flight into space, the development of the virgin lands and the Caribbean crisis.

The second part of the programme was devoted to international affairs, and opened with a report on Russian President Boris Yeltsin's "strange" visit to Spain, which Itogi described as "a test of the Russian president's ability to run the state."

"Everybody noted that the president was in good shape," the Itogi host stressed.

Itogi highlighted the aggravation of the situation near Gorazde, where the NATO aviation shelled Serb targets. Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said in an exclusive interview with Itogi that the new initiative proposed by him in Yugoslavia calls for the unblocking of Gorazde and work towards an agreement on an end to military activities along the entire frontline.

The minister, who was just back in Moscow from a trip to Serbia on President Yeltsin's instructions, said "the realisation of these measures will create a favourable situation for the resumption of the negotiations on the political settlement".

Andrey Kozyrev also said that every step taken by the Serb side will be accompanied, for our part, "by a resolute raising of the question about the lifting of the sanctions". He stressed that "such a consistent progress is a must". "I think Russia has remained the only strong player on this arena, who has not marred its reputation with irresponsible actions," the minister said.

He reported that Russia has been informed by the West about the latest developments around Gorazde. As a result of consultations, we succeeded in convincing them that one should not make haste this time around," Kozyrev said. "It is necessary to consult Russia, we must act in concert", Kozyrev stressed.

Kozyrev Outlines Scenarios in Bosnia

LD1604183094 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Recorded excerpt from an interview with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev given at the Russian Foreign Ministry on 16 April; from the "Novosti" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Kozyrev] So what happened? What happened was that air strikes were delivered without consultations with us. As a result, the situation aggravated sharply. Why? Because the party of war on both sides was probably just waiting for those air strikes. Our Western partners do not realize that they do not know the situation. I have to say that at present the situation is literally at a crossroads. There is a chance for a breakthrough toward ending hostilities, to be followed by separation of the sides, sending in peacekeeping forces there, and later a comprehensive political settlement, and naturally some steps in the Serbs' favor, with regard to sanctions.

The second option is a rampage of the party of war inside Bosnia, the continuation of bloodbath, shelling, possibly even seizure of hostages from among the UN forces, possibly further air strikes. But of course all this will grow like an avalanche, the tragedy of a conflagration of war. Unfortunately, I cannot as yet say with complete confidence whether we can secure the first option and avert the second.

[Announcer Sergey Medvedev] The Russian minister gave this interview to our program this afternoon. Two hours ago he flew to Belgrade to back Churkin's peace efforts.

Kozyrev Supports Air Strikes To Defend Troops

LD1604204094 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev flew to Belgrade this evening. ITAR-TASS has learned from the Russian Foreign Ministry that while in Yugoslavia he intends to conduct talks on a Bosnian settlement. Vitaliy Churkin, the Russian president's special envoy in former Yugoslavia, will also take part in the talks.

In an interview Andrey Kozyrev gave to INTERFAX before his departure, he noted that it was inadmissible that UN peacekeeping forces in Bosnia were becoming a target for attacks. In his view, harshest measures can be taken to defend them, including air strikes.

Rebukes NATO Over Air Strikes

LD1604223694 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 2155 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Text] Andrey Kozyrev, Russian foreign minister, left for former Yugoslavia late on 16 April. Before his departure, he gave an interview to INTERFAX. According to Kozyrev, if NATO had consulted Russia prior to carrying out air strikes against the Bosnian Serbs, another way could possibly have been found to warn the hotheads among the Bosnian Serbs to halt the shelling of Gorazde. At the same time, together with our partners we could, perhaps, have found a possibility to warn the other side, the Bosnian Muslims, who are clearly provoking the Serbs, the minister said.

Urges 'More Thought' on Joining PFP

LD1704142094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1230 GMT 17 Apr 94

[Text] Before leaving Moscow for Belgrade, Saturday, Russia's Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev told Interfax more thought should be given to plans to join NATO's Partnership for Peace [PFP] program.

Kozyrev wished allied aircraft had refrained from bombing Serb positions near Gorazde pending consultations with Moscow. He said Russia and NATO had agreed to launch special, gentlemanly, relations on the basis of a more or less standard pilot document.

According to Kozyrev, Russia wanted more than the end of hostile relations with NATO. It wanted NATO to either learn to promote full-scale cooperation with Russia or set thought on integration into a mechanism that would be suited to meet new reality. He wanted NATO to treat Russia as a great power.

And, Kozyrev would want Russia and NATO to promote more serious and constructive relations in addition to signing a pilot document of limited importance.

Kozyrev Holds Talks With Milosevic in Belgrade

Kozyrev, Milosevic Discuss Gorazde

LD1604234194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2256 GMT 16 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Dmitriy Gorokhov and Aleksandr Kondrashov]

[Text] Belgrade, 17 Apr (TASS)— To define a security zone in the Gorazde area, to cease hostilities on all fronts and to eliminate obstacles in the way of normal operation of the personnel of UN forces—these are the priority points for a way out of the present critical situation in Bosnia. They were formulated at the talks between Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic and Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, which have just ended here.

These agreements will lay a foundation for the forthcoming multilateral meeting in Pale between the Bosnian Serb leadership, the UN representatives, and the Russian president's Special Envoy Vitaliy Churkin. The Russian foreign minister announced that the meeting would take place today [17 April].

The meeting is to define clearly the boundaries of a security zone in Gorazde, to solve the questions of demilitarization of this zone and of the withdrawal of the Bosnian Serb troops, to draw up conditions for observing a cease-fire between the Serb and the Muslim sides on all lines of contact in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Those attending the meeting will also have to agree on ways to ensure freedom of movement for all servicemen from the UN forces, who are now blockaded for various reasons by local Serbian authorities.

Kozyrev Views Options for Gorazde

LD1704034394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0214 GMT 17 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Dmitriy Gorokhov and Aleksandr Kondrashov]

[Text] Belgrade, 17 Apr—A comprehensive cessation of hostilities on all Bosnian fronts should become a starting point for ending the critical situation around Gorazde, today Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev stated following his meeting with the Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic.

It is necessary to ensure that the Serbian troops be withdrawn from the town and that its shelling—an excessive response to the provocations of the Muslim side—be ceased, said the Russian minister. We also consider the NATO air strikes to be an excessive reaction. However, at this point it is important to stop this chain of developments, to define the borders of the security zone in Gorazde, to bring there UN observers and to observe the cease-fire not only in Gorazde, but also on all Bosnian fronts, so as to avoid repeated duplications of such crisis situations in different areas.

I am glad that our approach coincides in principle with the position described by President Milosevic. The important point is that these steps—lifting the blockade of Gorazde, removing all the problems which have emerged with the personnel of the UN forces, the observance of the regime of the security zone and the comprehensive cease-fire—all these steps should be implemented in practice.

Such implementation will create a solid foundation for firmly raising the issue of lifting the sanctions against the former Yugoslavia, the Russian minister emphasized.

Asked what Russia would do should there be another breach of the procedure of the use of force by NATO against Bosnian Serbs, Andrey Kozyrev said: Within the last 24 hours, in spite of the crisis in Gorazde, we applied serious efforts to prevent new air strikes. I maintain that now all will depend on the implementation of the complex of measures outlined at my meeting with President Milosevic. At the forthcoming meeting in Pale between the leaders of the Bosnian Serbs and the UN representatives, with the participation of Russia, it is necessary to have the borders of the security zone clearly defined and the issues of bringing there UN observers discussed. The adherence to these accords, the complete cessation of the shelling of the town and the lifting of the blockade of the UN personnel—all these steps will make redundant the issue of the air strikes.

Sees Chance for Peace After Talks

LD1704111394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1031 GMT 17 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Dmitriy Gorokhov and Aleksandr Kondrashov]

[Text] Belgrade, 17 Apr—This day should become a reference point for moving in the opposite direction from war, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said before flying out of Belgrade for Moscow.

During the course of talks with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, he said in an interview with Russian journalists, I discussed the initiative plan on a settlement put forward by President Yeltsin and passed on our urgent recommendations to follow precisely this path. I should say that the Serbian president was ready for this conversation and our ideas on ways of settling the Bosnian question virtually tallied. This comes down to two to three specific steps: The lifting of the siege of Gorazde, which would mean quite a modest Serbian troop withdrawal; an end to the bombardment; and the dispatch of a contingent of UN forces to that town, which would guarantee objectivity and a complete cessation of fire by all sides. This would make any aerial actions on the part of NATO or the United Nations completely unnecessary.

Furthermore, the minister continued, the way would immediately be cleared for a cessation of hostile actions along the whole front line. Then favorable conditions would be created for holding full-scale negotiations on a comprehensive settlement. Everything now depends on whether the Serb side carries out the accords that were achieved at the meeting with President Milosevic.

In short, there is a very great chance for peace. Accordingly, these steps by the Serb side—each one of them—would make it possible for Russia with even greater persistence and realism to raise the issue of the lifting of the sanctions against Yugoslavia.

Moreover, this plan was approved in Belgrade. Belgrade would therefore have clearly shown that an impetus toward peace is coming precisely from there. Consequently, the grounds for the sanctions are disappearing and conditions are being created for Yugoslavia's return into the family of European and world peoples, Kozyrev emphasized in conclusion.

Holds News Conference on Talks

LD1704132694 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1206 GMT 17 Apr 94

[Text] [Unidentified announcer] Our special correspondent Yevgeniy Osipovskiy is on the line from Vnukovo-2, where Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev arrived from Belgrade literally a few minutes ago. What have you got to tell us?

[Osipovskiy] Andrey Kozyrev's news conference has only just ended and, although it was brief, there was a lot of interesting information in it. First among the main decisions that were made at the talks with Serbian President Milosevic in Belgrade, Kozyrev stressed the decision to hold a meeting in Pale between the leadership of the Bosnian Serbs, UN spokesmen, and Vitaliy Churkin, the Russian president's cochairman. [title as heard]

Kozyrev hoped that this meeting—in other words, making a decision on this matter—might succeed in lifting the siege of the town and in ensuring the creation of a demilitarized zone to be handed over to UN forces, as well as, in the broader perspective, in working out conditions for observing a truce between the Serb and Muslim sides along all lines of contact between them.

Kozyrev stressed that we are now at a crossroads. We should choose a road that leads to peace. Russia, he stressed, will back the aspiration of Serbs to have the sanctions lifted. At the same time, however, Kozyrev stressed that Russia will strive for an end to the siege of the town, which is not in the interests of Serbs and may only lead to disaster.

The matter of NATO's decision to carry out an air strike against Bosnian Serb positions also came up. Kozyrev stressed that this was the chief question, and he referred to President Milosevic, who had expressed his confidence that the Serbs would enter talks on ending the conflict around Gorazde and that they were ready to sign an agreement worked out a week ago.

Incidentally, everyone was very skeptical about the signing of this agreement, which provides for a halt to military operations along the whole line of contact. However, the Muslims carried out provocations, Kozyrev said, and the Serbs' armed response was inappropriate. After that, in Kozyrev' opinion, NATO's decision to carry out air strikes against the Serbs' positions was inappropriate. So that is how the present situation has emerged and how the crisis has been intensified.

A further interesting point here is that President Milosevic stressed that everything necessary would be done to stop the blockade of UN subunits. However, NATO's air strikes had given rise to suspicion on the Serbs' part with regard to these forces. This is, of course, making all these talks more difficult.

The final matter raised at the brief news conference was the issue of Russia's joining NATO's Partnership for Peace program, specifically in connection with events in Yugoslavia. Kozyrev stressed that Russia had been in favor of it from the very outset, but now there is discussion regarding in what form Russia will sign it—in the form of a framework agreement or in the form of a broader agreement. In this connection, Moscow needs a broader agreement that would rule out unilateral—especially unilateral—military actions in zones where the sides are closely cooperating, as in Yugoslavia. Kozyrev recalled, in this connection, that Russia is acting independently but is constantly—not just daily, but literally hourly—keeping its partners informed. It would like them to reciprocate in the same way.

Those, I think, are all the questions that Foreign Minister Kozyrev answered at Vnukovo-2 after his arrival there from Belgrade, where he met Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic.

[Announcer] Yevgeniy, I have just one question. What was your impression? At this difficult juncture, is there hope in the Bosnian crisis about which Kozyrev was speaking, that success will be achieved in making a transition toward peace? Is there light at the end of the tunnel? Are there grounds for optimism, or does the situation still remain very difficult indeed?

[Osipovskiy] Well, the situation remains difficult, of course. Kozyrev stressed two or three times, however, that perhaps all the sides now face the issue of choosing the path leading to stabilization and peace. In this connection, of course, he expressed great hopes regarding the multilateral meeting in Pale, which I have already mentioned.

[Announcer] Thank you very much. That was our special correspondent Yevgeniy Osipovskiy.

Departs Belgrade for Moscow

LD1704105094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0843 GMT 17 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Kondrashov]

[Text] Belgrade April 17 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev left Belgrade for Moscow on Sunday. Kozyrev arrived in Belgrade on Saturday evening to hold talks with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic on peaceful settlement of the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina and in connection with the developments in Gorazde.

Kozyrev Comments on Gorazde Following Belgrade Talks

Optimistic on Results of Pale Talks

LD1704154494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1526 GMT 17 Apr 94

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] Moscow April 17 TASS—Talks between U.N. special envoy Yasushi Akashi and Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, which got under way in the Sarajevo suburb of Pale with the participation of Russian mediator Vitaliy Churkin, are to result in pullback of troops from around Gorazde, consolidation of the U.N. designated "safe area" around the town and putting the areas under U.N. control, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev told reporters upon returning from Belgrade.

Earlier in the day, Kozyrev met with the Serb leadership to set priorities in the proposed settlement in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Serb President Slobodan Milosevic assured the Russian diplomat that Serbs were ready to enter talks to find a peaceful solution to the crisis around Gorazde.

Discusses Future Moves in Bosnia

LD1704201294 Moscow NTV in Russian 1700 GMT 17 Apr 94

["Exclusive" interview with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev correspondent Mikhail Svetlichnyy at Moscow airport on 17 April; from the "Itogi" program—recorded]

[Text] [Announcer Yevgeniy Kiselev] Last week was marked by a sharp deterioration of the situation in Bosnia, where fighting between Serbs and Muslims has resumed, leading to several NATO air strikes on Bosnian Serb positions. The Russian interpretation of the present situation and a new initiative from Russia to settle the crisis was set out in an exclusive interview to "Itogi" given by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, who returned to Moscow from Belgrade several hours ago.

[Svetlichnyy] Are we talking about a sticking plaster job or some new initiatives from Russia?

[Kozyrev] We are talking about an initiative from Russia, which, unfortunately does resemble a sticking plaster job, when, after provocations from a Muslim warring group in Gorazde, the Serbs started using heavy artillery against the town, including the site where UN observers were deployed.

The next step toward worsening the situation was made by NATO, which, in an equally inappropriate and uncalculated manner, and I would say, with the same level of responsibility as the warring sides, carried out two air strikes, which was obviously tantamount to adding fuel to the fire. It is possible that the fighters there were just waiting for something like that to happen in order to have a free hand and escape from the control of the political leadership.

And so for a week Vitaliy Churkin—but I must add that he was together with Charles Redman, the U.S. special envoy...[pauses] The French are now also actively involved. We are maintaining constant contact with French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe. Fortunately, Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic was, in essence, willing to accept the range of measures that we had proposed. This is an initiative by President Yeltsin—I mean my trip to see Slobodan Milosevic. And the range of measures has been precisely determined and coordinated. They include the lifting of the blockade of Gorazde. Then, there must be an agreement on the cessation of hostile actions along the entire front line to avoid having to jump from one crisis to another—Sarajevo today, Gorazde tomorrow, and there will be plenty of other towns after tomorrow—so, an agreement on a cease-fire along the entire front line.

This will create a situation conducive to further negotiations on a political settlement.

Therefore, Russia will put all its political weight in favor of this option. But I would like to note that every step by the Serb side will be accompanied by appropriate, decisive pressure on our part about the lifting of sanctions. And both this plan, the process and the plan to lift the sanctions are fully coordinated and are well known. And I think that our Western partners have a better understanding of the need for such a consistent approach.

[Svetlichnyy] This week, both in the State Duma and in various political circles here in Moscow, there has been discussion concerning Russia not having been informed about the bombing. Could you perhaps say now that such actions on the part of NATO, without prior notification to the Russian side, are completely ruled out?

And the second question, as I said, after Russia was not informed, in Bosnia and in Yugoslavia, some circles, generally speaking, started to adopt a pretty skeptical attitude toward the role of Russia. Has this action also not had an effect on diminishing Russia's influence in this conflict?

[Kozyrev] Well, first, I want to reply that we are acting in close contact with the State Duma and the Federation Council. Yesterday, at our request, and as a result of joint work, both Federation Council Chairman Vladimir Shumeyko, and State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin sent a message to the leaders of the parliaments of Yugoslavia, both of Serbia and of the Bosnian Serbs. The Russian Orthodox Church also put forward an initiative of this kind.

So, I think that Russia has in fact become almost the only powerful player on this stage that is not stained with irresponsible actions, and it is for this reason that Vitaliy Churkin is right there where the issue is being decided.

Now, with regard to notification about the strikes, then on this occasion we were au fait with events. We are aware that Yasushi Akashi, the deputy UN secretary general, who is managing the operation in Bosnia had asked for air support—yesterday at about 1700, after the Bosnian Serbs—and this must be made clear—mounted another artillery attack on Gorazde—which is of course impermissible—and after about 150 UN servicemen found themselves blockaded.

Things went so depressingly far that in Sarajevo area the Serbs, Serb fighters threatened our subunit of Russian peacekeepers with weapons. In other words, I think this shows with utmost clarity the degree of irresponsibility of Serb fighters.

But as a result of these consultations we were able to persuade both the United Nations and our NATO partners to stay cool this time. After all, consultations are needed not simply to say: Well, bomb them if you like, provided you have consulted us. Consultations are needed in order to exhaust all possibilities. If NATO has no other alternative but to send a fighter aircraft or a bomber, we, rather, have a possibility—in any case, we do not mind taking a flight in the evening in order to have night talks with the political leadership and to try to find a different solution, after all. Well, each has his own way, but that is exactly why we say that Russia must be consulted and that we should act together.

Kozyrev Seeks 'More Substantive' Accord With NATO

LD1704163294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1600 GMT 17 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, April 17 (TASS)—"Partnership with the North Atlantic Alliance was our choice from the very outset", Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev told reporters after returning from a 24-hour trip to Belgrade.

"Two years ago, Russian President Boris Yeltsin sent a letter to NATO, offering partnership and close cooperation, and at present we are seeking for the best ways of promoting these ties", he said commenting on Russia's approach towards NATO's partnership for peace programme.

We are ready to discuss whether a framework agreement should be signed first, which is to be followed by a broader one, or whether we should conclude a broader partnership pact, without signing a preliminary agreement, Kozyrev noted.

"What is clear is that we want a more serious and substantive agreement adequate to relations that should exist between NATO and the superpower of Russia...especially an agreement which will exclude unilateral actions, particulary military ones, in areas where we have to closely cooperate", he said.

The Russian Government has agreed in principle to join the NATO plan, which offers East European and former Soviet states cooperation but stops short of letting them join the alliance.

Kozyrev has postponed his visit to Brussels on April 21 to sign the Partnership for Peace deal, apparantly angered by NATO's air strikes on Serb forces in Bosnia.

Foreign Affairs Official Views Gorazde Bombing

OW1604095294 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel and Orbita Networks in Russian 1845 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Studio interview with Aleksandra Vasilyevna Achulova, deputy chairwoman of the State Duma committee for foreign affairs; by Sergey Lomakin; from the "Utro" program—live]

[Text] [Lomakin] Several days ago military bombing raids were carried out against Serb positions near the city of Gorazde in Bosnia-Herzegovia, and I saw it as my duty to invite here a person who is directly involved in foreign affairs: Aleksandra Vasilyevna Achulova, deputy chairwoman of the duma committee for foreign affairs. I would like to ask you the following question: We do not know very well what is going on; all we know is that bombing took place. What can it lead to, and what has it already lead to? Please give us your opinion.

[Achulova] Actually, I know what you and many of our compatriots and members of the [word indistinct] committee know, namely that air raids took place in the town of Gorazde in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The natural reaction to this fact [pauses] the mere fact that NATO forces attempted to solve the problems of a conflict existing there in a unilateral fashion by conducting an air raid caused a certain reaction. There were some casualties, which is a fact that is worthy of attention in itself. Apart from other issues, I think this amounts to interference in the emerging trend in the peace process place. It caused diplomats to be very concerned, and I think the same applies to all members of the Security Council. Today, the mere decision to use the Air Force, that is, to use force to solve problems as complex as the conflict existing there may generate the most negative opinions, conclusions and statements, and not only in the State Duma which I represent, but also in all parliaments of the world.

[Lomakin] Some of the politicians wondered if Russian prestige has been damaged. It is no secret that we have significant interests in this region—at least they should be. How can this affect Russian prestige?

[Achulova] The mere fact of what has taken place can naturally affect Russian prestige, but as to the moral responsibility of such an organization as the UN, it can also affect the authority of this organization. In my opinion, and in the opinion of many of my colleagues, the mechanism for adopting such decisions is incorrect. As you know, Russia itself was an initiator in the UN Security Council of the proposal to never use force to solve such problems, and naturally the use of force in Bosnia-Herzegovina causes a certain amount of damage to Russia, to Russian diplomacy. It is a separate issue that the procedure itself for adopting such decisions has been breached, and no consultations with any member of the Security Council were held. In other words, the right for NATO to use air support was guaranteed by the UN secretary general. Therefore, I think that naturally there

was in any case some moral damage here because our position on this is known. On the other hand, I think that this causes a certain amount of damage to the UN Security Council.

[Lomakin] As far as I know, the duma adopted a statement on this issue yesterday evening. As I understand it, this is the State Duma reaction. Could you comment on the adopted statement?

[Achulova] Indeed, the State Duma adopted a decision on this issue yesterday. The State Duma calls the public's attention to the deep concern felt by all deputies of the State Duma over the air raid in the town of Gorazde in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The statement also emphasizes that the use of force without early consultations with members of the Security Council, and the Russian representative among them, was against the policy of the State Duma as expressed in both official statements and in speeches of deputies and representatives of various factions. Naturally, [the statement] stresses the need for peaceful settlement of this process and a return to the negotiating process. It also contains points clearly suggesting that the UN convene the Security Council to discuss extensively the situation created in Bosnia-Herzegovina as a result of this air raid.

[Lomakin] Let me ask you a question which you do not have to answer. However, if you do answer it, I will be very happy. As far as I understand, this is the first time that the UN used NATO forces. Do you not have the feeling that Russia and its position on this issue is being felt out, and if Russia gives in on some issues then, hypothetically speaking, other steps might follow?

[Achulova] You know, this statement of the State Duma does not contain such a position, and it has not been discussed in the committee for foreign affairs. However, as a deputy I can say that personally I do not rule out such a possibility, such a cause for delivering this strike because, from the logical point of view, carrying out such a barbarous act in Bosnia-Herzegovina [pauses] nevertheless, the statement notes that the State Duma finds it necessary to deploy UN forces in this zone, and emphasizes that the NATO forces were used in a unilateral fashion. What is more, one of the very serious problems being discussed in the mass media is the concept which we must join, a partnership we must join, a partnership which Russia must sign on 21 April. Nevertheless, one of the articles of this statement recommends, in a very proper manner, that the appropriate committee of the State Duma, such as the committees for foreign affairs, geopolitics, and security fully take Russian interests into consideration when working out the approach of the State Duma to the concept of Russian cooperation with NATO. I think that this was not done without a reason. Therefore, I think that Russian policy regarding this conflict must be consistent, and must in any case exclude the use of force to solve this very complex problem. [The statement] again calls warring sides to sit at the negotiating table, avoid any casualties, and activate the position of Russian Federation Foreign Ministry in order to create an effective mechanism for the implementation of resolutions of the UN security Council.

[Lomakin] Thank you, Aleksandra Vasilyevna. Like many other Russians, I still hope that the peacekeeping process has the upper hand, because there is probably no other way in Europe.

[Achulova] Yes, that is very important.

[Lomakin] We are too close to each other in Europe. Thank you again. We have talked about the position the State Duma adopted yesterday evening on bombing of Serb positions in Bosnia-Herzegovina. We had with us Aleksandra Vasilyevna Achulova, deputy chairman of the State Duma committee for foreign affairs. Thank you again.

Churkin Achieves 'Serious Basis' for Bosnian Settlement

LD1504183494 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Remarks by Vitaliy Churkin, Russian special envoy and deputy foreign minister, to correspondents on 15 April; place not given; from the "Novosti" newscast—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Our talks in Belgrade were centered on the difficult problem of concluding an all-embracing agreement on cessation of all hostilities between the Serbs and the Muslims in all the territories of Bosnia-Herzegovina. There were three extensive, serious, and constructive conversations with Serbian President Milosevic. We continued our contacts with the leaders [words indistinct]. It is not without satisfaction that I can now say that, in my view, I have a serious basis for concluding such an agreement. It envisages disengagement of the fighting sides; in other words, it will be a real agreement on ending the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina and not just another declaration on ceasing hostilities. [passage omitted]

Churkin Continues 'Tough' Talks in Sarajevo, Pale

LD1604143394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1251 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Text] As Interfax has learned from Russia's Foreign Ministry, the Russian President's Special Envoy, Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin arrived in Sarajevo on Saturday to help end hostilities and reconcile Serbs and Moslems in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In the words of a senior Russian diplomat, the negotiations have been quite tough, although the sides have revealed some encouraging signs.

Nonetheless, in his opinion, the achievement of an agreement within the next two-three days is hardly possible for political, military, and technical reasons. An

accord must fix a disengagement line between the Serbs and the Moslems, a line which in their view, could be a frontier for a long time. The negotiators have been bargaining for virtually each mile of the mountain terrain. This does not portend a quick completion of the negotiating process, the diplomat said.

However, he did not rule out that an accord could be signed already next week.

Calls For Gorazde Demilitarized Zone

LD1604200794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1930 GMT 16 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Zagreb April 16 TASS—Russian envoy Vitaliy Churkin has called for establishing a demilitarised zone around Gorazde similar to that in Sarajevo, Sarajevo television said on Saturday.

Churkin said that this would involve the withdrawal of heavy artillery from the 20-kilometer security zone around the city and deployment of U.N. peace-keeping troops in the region. "This is the only way out of the current chaos," he said.

Bosnia-Herzegovina's leaders Alija Izetbegovic and Haris Silajdzic demanded at a meeting with U.N. envoy Yasushi Akashi guarantees of immediate cease-fire around Gorazde. Otherwise Akashi should guarantee that Serb positions will be subjected to "energetic air strikes," Izetbegovic said.

Officials Discuss Gorazde Cease-Fire

LD1704151094 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1430 GMT 17 Apr 94

[Text] Yasushi Akashi and Vitaliy Churkin, special envoys of the UN secretary general and the Russian president, held talks with the leader of the Bosnian Serbs Radovan Karadzic in the Sarajevo suburb of Pale today. This was the first meeting between Akashi and Karadzic since NATO planes bombed Serb positions near Gorazde a week ago.

An ITAR-TASS correspondent has learned at the Zagreb headquarters of peacekeeping forces that at the Pale meeting they discussed conditions for a cease-fire under which Bosnian Serbs could suspend their offensive on Gorazde.

Churkin Fails To Achieve Cease-Fire

LD1804130594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1220 GMT 18 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Zagreb April 18 TASS—Russian envoy to former Yugoslavia Vitaliy Churkin failed to talk Bosnian Serbs into ceasing their offensive on Gorazde and warned them that attempts to seize the city would trigger mass bloodshed.

"My only hope is that fire will no longer be opened on the town. It would be a huge catastrophe to try and seize it—this would result in an immense bloodshed", he told reporters before leaving for Moscow Monday. Churkin arrived in Zagreb from Sarajevo.

The situation around the Muslim enclave in Bosnia "is poorly manageable and completely unexplainable in any reasonable and logical terms", he stressed.

During his eight-day trip Churkin tried to ensure "a serious agreement on ceasing hostilities along the whole of the Serbian-Muslim front and proceed to a political settlement and, what was always important for the Serbs, to a practical beginning of the lifting of sanctions".

"Only one thing was demanded from the Serbs in the given situation—to stop their offensive on Gorazde", Churkin said and added "unfortunately, they failed to do that".

"Defence of Gorazde has collapsed. It is surrounded by Serbs. We worried all day yesterday whether they would open fire. Luckily they fired only four mines. The situation was very tense when three tanks approached the city. Had they fired, NATO could have resumed air strikes", he said.

According to Churkin, Serbs have reportedly agreed to allow the evacuation of the sick from Gorazde, "but for the time being we are afraid to do that as the arrival of helicopters can cause panic among refugees".

Churkin refused to predict further developments in Gorazde. He only said that "if they get out of this humanitarian deadend we shall see how the developments go".

Moscow Blocks Further Air Strikes on Gorazde

LD1604154894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1519 GMT 16 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Kondrashov]

[Text] Belgrade, 16 Apr—Today the Russian side blocked new NATO air strikes on Bosnian Serb positions in the Gorazde region.

An ITAR-TASS correspondent has learned from well-informed sources that in the first half of today U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher telephoned Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and told him that NATO aircraft were preparing to carry out strikes against Serbs firing on Gorazde.

Vitaliy Churkin, the Russian president's special representative, who was in Pale, a Bosnian Serb-controlled suburb of Sarajevo, was informed of the content of the conversation between Christopher and Kozyrev.

Following his contacts with the Bosnian Serb leadership and UN forces command, V. Churkin announced that Serb shelling of Gorazde was not an issue. Only four mortar explosions had been recorded in the town, and UN observers were unable to determine precisely which side had fired them.

In addition, General Ratko Mladic, the Serb Army commander, has assured V. Churkin that Serb forces do not intend to storm Gorazde or bring artillery fire to bear on the town.

Information received from the Russian president's special representative was forwarded to W. Christopher, after which the order for NATO air strikes on Serb positions near Gorazde was rescinded, the abovementioned sources said.

NATO To Launch Air Strikes as Necessary

LD1704173394 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1700 GMT 17 Apr 94

[Text] The UN Security Council and NATO will make decisions on further actions in Bosnia on the basis of the results of talks with the Serbian side, including today's meeting in Pale between UN Envoy Yasushi Akashi, Russian diplomat Vitaliy Churkin, and Bosnian Serb Leader Radovan Karadzic. ITAR-TASS has learned this from a spokesman for the NATO headquarters in Brussels. In his words, if UN observers ask for military support before any new political decisions are made, then NATO aircraft will launch a necessary air strike without delays. NATO will do this in compliance with last year's Security Council resolution, for which Russia voted too, the NATO spokesman stressed.

Bosnia Air Raids Raise Questions About PFP

PM1804112194 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 16 Apr 94 p 1

[Leonid Timofeyev report under "NATO News" rubric: "Let Us Delay Partnership"]

[Text] Of course, the bombing of Serbian positions by NATO air forces could not fail to affect the prospects of Russia joining NATO's Partnership for Peace program. Although, as Boris Yeltsin bluntly stated on the last day of his visit to Spain, "for the time being we are not linking the signing of the document and the complication of the situation in Bosnia. But we are in no hurry to sign it."

Indeed, is it worth rushing if the partnership program claims that stability and security in the Euroatlantic region can be achieved only on the basis of cooperation and joint actions, yet it is not even thought necessary to brief Moscow about NATO's bombing of the Serbs?

But in that case what is going to happen on the date of 21 April announced by the mass media, when Andrey Kozyrev is due to set off for Brussels in order to sign the document? We have learned that there are no official understandings with NATO about this time frame. And not everything about this program is clear to the Russian parliament yet.

At a parliamentary committee hearing Thursday [14 April] on the subject of "The Partnership for Peace Program and the Future of the CIS," there was a question about how much participation in the program will cost us. According to the military, during the initial stage the resources allocated to the Defense Ministry within the 1994 budget are quite sufficient. True, fears are still being expressed that the NATO partnership will restrict the potential of the Russian military-industrial complex in the arms trade. Defense industry workers themselves believe that participation in the program is unlikely to affect exports substantially because we have already been squeezed out of international weapons markets.

By all accounts the signing of the program has been postponed because, Kozyrev stated, we are interested in much more serious relations precluding surprises and unilateral measures, especially military ones.

Agreement on Black Sea Fleet Division Reported

LD1504171594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1631 GMT 15 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[Text] Moscow, 15 Apr—This evening at the President Hotel at the end of the meeting of CIS countries' leaders, Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk signed an agreement on a stage-by-stage settlement of the problem of the Black Sea Fleet. The document says the Ukrainian Navy and the Russian Black Sea Fleet will be based separately. Ukraine is to have 15-20 percent of the Black Sea Fleet ships and vessels. An agreement on the parameters for this division is to be drawn up within 10 days.

Relevant ministries and departments of the two countries have been given instructions to prepare a full-scale treaty of friendship and cooperation between Russia and Ukraine.

At the end of the meeting Leonid Kravchuk invited Boris Yeltsin to pay a state visit to Ukraine in the near future. The invitation was accepted.

Kravchuk Comments on Agreement

LD1504171494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1637 GMT 15 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow, 15 Apr—"Accords on the division of the Russian and Ukrainian Navies based on the shores of the Black Sea coast will be reached within 10 days." Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk said this after the conclusion of talks held today between the Russian and Ukrainian delegations at the President Hotel in Moscow.

According to Kravchuk, the two sides "have instructed the Foreign Ministries to begin preparing a full-scale treaty between Russia and Ukraine." He said that "a protocol stating the intention of the two countries to cooperate in the military-technological sphere was signed by them for the first time".

Kravchuk also said that the question of the resignation of Black Sea Fleet Commander [Eduard] Baltin had not been discussed but that "the Ukrainian side did not insist, as a matter of principle, on his resignation at the talks that took place." Kravchuk said that accords had been reached with regard to the location of the two countries' naval forces and that their parameters had been established in percentage terms.

Summing up today's talks, he added: "There are no issues between Ukraine and Russia that we are unable to resolve. We have fully resolved all problems that existed in our bilateral relations."

Kiev Warned Over Fleet Accord

LD1604103394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1102 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow, 16 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—After the meeting of the Russian and Ukrainian presidents, Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kravchuk, where an agreement on a stage-by-stage settlement of the Black Sea fleet issue was signed, the Ukrainian side has begun to interpret the accords that have been achieved in its typical cavalier manner. Even before the talks provided for in the agreement, where the parameters of how the fleet is to be divided are to be discussed. the Ukrainian side began to put forward through the mass media its own options of the lease itself, its length, and the locations where the Russian Black Sea Fleet is to be based, says a statement by Vyacheslav Kostikov, the press secretary of the Russian president. In it, Kostikov said the following:

Russian President Boris Yeltsin yesterday stated during the talks that he does not accept the haggling tone, which is lowering the level of relations and trust. The Russian side has to remind Ukraine once again about the harsh realities and imperatives that underline the agreement just signed. Careless words and actions are out of place here when the Black Sea Fleet is at stake. Moscow urges the Kiev politicians and the military not to embark on unilateral actions that could cast doubt on the sincerity of the negotiation process.

Official Says Iraq Incident Must Be Investigated

LD1504192894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1814 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] A high-ranking official from the Russian Foreign Ministry stressed that Moscow had given consideration to the tragic incident in northern Iraq where two U.S. fighters had erroneously shot down two helicopters carrying UN representatives. "We would like to express our deep regret and our condolences to the relatives and friends of those who died," the diplomat said in an interview with Interfax today.

"However, the incident has caused us serious concern since this happened in the so-called no flight zone in Iraqi Kurdistan, to the north of the 32nd parallel, controlled by the "coalition deterrence forces" consisting of air units of the Western participants in the anti-Iraqi coalition, the activities of which were not defined by appropriate international decisions," the Russian diplomat emphasized.

He said the world community should expect careful and impartial investigations into this tragic incident and to be informed on all the details of it.

U.S. Air Power Questioned After Iraq Incident

MK1604083094 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Apr 94 p 2

[Mikhail Pogorelyy report: "An Accidental Error or a Logical Tragedy?"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The first impression from the tragedy in the Iraqi skies was: An impossible, tragic mistake has occurred. The situation, however, gives rise to a number of legitimate questions. Answers to them may not be the most pleasant for the U.S. military establishment.

First, about the pilots' professional level. Judging by their initial testimony, they mistook U.S.-made UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters for Iraqi Soviet-built Mi-8's. Indeed, outwardly they bear a remote resemblance, but with the slightest doubts, were the pilots not supposed to fly around what they saw as suspicious objects and make sure what it was, friend or foe? Moreover, were they not supposed to activate their Friend or Foe identification system? If none of this was done, the logical conclusion is: The fighters used the very first opportunity to show the Iraqis who is master in their airspace.

The second question and the answer to it bears on the performance characteristics of U.S. combat aviation. If the F-15 pilots used the interrogator after all, did they therefore receive no confirmation that the targets were not friendly? In addition, as Lieutenant General Richard Keller, chief of staff of the U.S. Command Europe—responsible for the military part of operation Provide Comfort-2—who was summoned to the Pentagon explained, at the time of the incident airspace to the north of the 36th parallel was monitored by AWACS aircraft. Their onboard radars and computers are designed precisely to detect and track air targets and guide the interceptors onto them. In other words, one cannot rule out a malfunction in the operation of these "super modern arms and equipment systems" which are so zealously promoted by the Americans. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Seeks Intensified Russian Role in Middle East

LD1804102794 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, who arrives in Moscow today for talks with the Russian leadership, hopes to reach agreement on intensifying Russian mediation in the Middle East settlement, a high-ranking representative of the Palestinian embassy in Moscow told a RIA correspondent. He said that the PLO head hopes that Russia could play the main role in the resumption of the bilateral Palestinian-Israeli talks on Gaza and Jericho, broken off as a result of the tragic events in Hebron. The Russian Foreign Ministry told RIA that 'Arafat's visit will last until 20 April. The itinerary envisions talks with the leadership of the foreign policy department, meetings with State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin, Internal Affairs Minister Viktor Yerin, and also with Aleksey II, patriarch of All Russia.

Turkish Regulation of Black Sea Straits Opposed

LD1504174594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1521 GMT 15 Apr 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: By diplomatic correspondents Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy and others]

[Text] The regulations providing for passing of ships via the Black Sea straits of Bosporus and Dardanelles which have been unilaterally imposed by Turkey early this year and are due to go into effect since July 1 violate the generally accepted norms of the international law. Russia "seriously opposes" these regulations, deputy director of the legal department within the Russian Foreign Ministry Yakov Ostrovskiy declared in his interview with Interfax. This February he headed a Russian inter-departmental delegation which negotiated in Ankara with the Turkish authorities on this issue.

The diplomat explained that passing of ships via the Black Sea straits is regulated by the international convention Montreux signed by the USSR, Turkey, and several other states in 1938. "Turkey believes that several provisions of the Convention can be replaced by its domestic legislation. Russia insists that the Montreux Convention should be strictly observed. If Ankara thinks that it is obsolete, let it introduce amendments in accordance with the established order," said Ostrovskiy.

He pointed out that the international convention on sea law dated 1982 regulates the order of ships' passing via the straits. "According to the Convention, none of the coastal states should hinder free navigation via the straits," said Ostrovskiy.

In his words, "settling of this situation" would largely depend upon the sitting of the navigation security committee of the International Sea Organization (one of the UN specialized offices—Interfax). It is due to be held mid-May in London. "Of course, Turkey does not intend to present the regulations for this sitting thinking that it is its domestic document. Participation of the Turkish representatives in the discussion of international navigation rules in straits is a positive factor," said Ostrovskiy.

He expressed opinion that the Turkish provision on passing large ships via the Bosporus strait in a strict sequence "slightly contradicts" to the Convention." According to new Turkish rules, all ships must wait when a large ship enters the gulf. This creates a lot of inconveniences," said Ostrovskiy.

He specially emphasized that the Turkish regulations establish "rather a complex order" of passing for military ships. "This contradicts to the generally accepted norms. Military ships enjoy immunity and cannot be subjected to customs, sanitation, or any other inspection. The Turkish party has nothing to contradict. However, it promised to hand over a document via its Embassy which would stipulate that the regulations do not concern military ships. However, we have not received such a document yet," said Ostrovskiy.

In his opinion, "one can understand the Turkish party because it cares about its security but sometimes its logic looks strange enough." "If we take it into consideration then it is possible just to close the Black Sea straits. Then there will be no accidents for sure. But this is not a way out of this situation," said Ostrovskiy.

Chernomyrdin Meets With G-7 Delegations

LD1704165594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1531 GMT 17 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[Text] St. Petersburg April 17 TASS—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin met here on Sunday with delegations of the Group-of-Seven highly industrialized countries and international financial organizations.

Participants in the closed-door meeting discussed coordination of international assistance to Russian reforms, specifically the possibility of creating a multilateral agency to insure foreign investments against non-commercial risks.

Chernomyrdin told the gathering that the Russian leadership was firmly committed to the course of reforms. "We have advanced considerably in market-oriented transformations and can now speak about certain progress on this way", the Russian prime minister emphasised. Among the most significant achievements, he listed the bringing of inflation down to 8-9 per cent a month.

Chernomyrdin thanked Western partners for their participation in the meeting.

Russia was represented at the meeting by Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin, Central Bank Chief Viktor Gerashchenko, Acting Finance Minister Sergey Dubinin and other officials.

LDPR Denies Funding by Former E. German Party

LD1604140594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1251 GMT 16 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Andrey Timofeyev: "LDPR Official Denies BERLINER ZEITUNG Report that Zhirinovskiy's Election Campaign Was Financed by the Former Socialist Unity Party of Germany"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, 16 Apr—The Liberal Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR] has not received any money from the former Socialist Unity Party of Germany in order to conduct an election campaign, Stanislav Zarichankiy, an official in the LDPR's organizational department, declared today in a conversation with an ITAR-TASS correspondent. "We know of no Berlin company called 'TFO,' which is supposed to have transferred money to the LDPR's funds," he said. "We regard this as an attempt by the German paper to mislead the public."

Delegation Visits Military Installation in Vietnam

LD1604224494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1615 GMT 16 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Blagov]

[Text] Hanoi, 16 Apr—The Russian Government delegation headed by Deputy Chairman of the Russian Federation Government Yuriy Yarov today visited a Russian military installation in Cam Ranh Bay in Vietnam.

Answering questions from the ITAR-TASS correspondent on the eve of the visit, the Russian deputy prime minister praised the present state of bilateral cooperation in the military field, a new impetus to which was, in his words, given by a visit to Russia in March by [Lieutenant General] Dao Dinh Luyen, chief of the General Staff of the Vietnamese People's Army. Yarov noted that the visit to Cam Ranh Bay was purely fact-finding. At the same time, he said that the visit could result in new proposals on joint mutually beneficial use of the installation, even though the problem had not been discussed in the course of the present visit to Vietnam.

The materials and machinery supplies station at Cam Ranh peninsula is at present used by Russia on the basis of the agreement signed by the former USSR and Vietnam in 1981. It expires in 2004. The numbers of the Russian staff servicing the installation have been reduced by about three-quarters compared with 1980, while cooperation with the Vietnamese side has been transferred to a commercial basis.

Political Issues

Yeltsin Establishes Presidential Group of Experts

LD1604141094 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1300 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Text] Boris Yeltsin has decided to set up a group of experts under the Russian president. An edict signed by him says the group will consist of eight people. Their names have not been given. Among other things, the experts will draft proposals regarding the implementation of the president's decisions in the economic sphere. They will also compile speeches for him, as well as analytical and information memos.

Yeltsin Decrees Protection for National Cinema

LD1604151694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1251 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Text] The Second Congress of Russian Cinema Workers opened in Moscow on Saturday. A message from President Yeltsin to its participants stresses that "the unique potential of Russian cinema must be preserved at all costs."

On Friday, he signed a decree on a protectionist state policy in the national cinema art. Support for cinema is recognized in this document as crucial to the government's cultural development plans. The decree obliges the cabinet to set aside funds for the national motion-picture industry and submit a bill on national cinema to the Federal Assembly within three months.

There are nearly 300 film-makers at the forum in Moscow. Secretary of Russia's Cinematographic Union Sergey Solovyev, a film director, spoke about the Russian cinema's plight and ways to overcome it. The congress will last two days.

Corruption Proceedings Against Rutskoy Reopened

LD1504165294 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] ITAR-TASS has learned that Russia's procurator general has reopened the so-called Rutskoy trust case, in connection with the incompleteness of the investigation conducted earlier. Among other things, Rutskoy, the notary who verified the documents, and other persons were not questioned on all the circumstances of the trust agreement. Furthermore, a number of expert investigations need to be carried out, including one into the trust agreement itself.

Zhirinovskiy Criticizes Eurasian Union Idea

LD1704160494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1230 GMT 17 Apr 94

[Text] Russian ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy has criticized Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev's proposal for a Eurasian Union. Addressing a congress of the Union of Officers on Saturday, Zhirinovskiy warned about "the danger for those who are in favor of the restoration of the Soviet Union if they support the initiative of President Nursultan Nazarbayev." A community of states "with the same people—Nazarbayev (Uzbekistan President Islam) Karimov, (Georgian leader Eduard) Shevardnadze, (Moldovan President Mircea) Snegur, and others - staying in their offices would be the worst that could happen," "a trap for many years, from which it would be difficult to break out," he said.

A "single union state" should be based on the territorial unification of the former Soviet republics, the merger of their armed forces, security services and financial systems, and uniform citizenship, Zhirinovskiy said. Meanwhile, "Russians living in regions where temporarily somebody else's flag is flying, have the right to self-determination," he said.

Cites NATO 'Trap', Serb 'Victims'

LD1504141194 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1200 GMT 15 Apr 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] A news conference by the leader of the Liberal Democratic Party faction was held on the results of the Council of Europe session, at which Vladimir Zhirinovskiy sharply opposed the possible signing by Russia of NATO's Partnership for Peace program.

[Begin Zhirinovskiy recording] I am glad that our country's political leadership has made a correct step in this regard. For the first time in the four months since the State Duma' started working, we can react positively to President Yeltsin's steps on his refusal to go to Brussels to sign the document which is called the Partnership for Peace program. Lovely words—Partnership for Peace—anyone would think, but in fact it is an ideological trap. The more paper we sign, the more European and international structures we climb aboard, the more we will be taken by the throat and forced to implement documents they create. [end recording]

[Kuznetsova] There was a short silence and then Vladimir Zhirinovskiy tackled the Serbian question.

[Begin Zhirinovskiy recording] I am fully on the side of the Serbs. The Serbs are victims of aggression. What is happening in the Balkans today is a scenario for the gradual annihilation of Russia. The Americans are (?trying it out) on a small region. Just like the Russians in Russia—the former USSR—so it is with the Serbs in Yugoslavia. [end recording]

[Kuznetsova] A statement was made that henceforth the party will use the title Zhirinovskiy's Party, since Boris Fedorov, the leader of a new political formation, called it the Liberal Democratic Union of 12 December.

Comments on Strasbourg Visit

LD1504202294 Moscow NTV in Russian 1800 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Excerpt] In the break between budget discussions, the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] leader decided to tell the media about his visit to Strasbourg as part of the Russian parliamentary delegation. In [Vladimir] Zhirinovskiy's words, it was difficult to work there because the French authorities limited his itinerary to three points: Charles de Gaulle airport, Strasbourg airport, and the city of Strasbourg.

[Begin Zhirinovskiy recording] They could have just shown me the toilet and told me where to piss, and where I should eat, and where I should sleep. That is all that remained to be shown. Otherwise, I might use the wrong toilet. [end recording]

Another example of Western inhospitality was the fact that the French do not speak Russian, which Zhirinovskiy considers essential even a long way from Russia.

[Begin Zhirinovskiy recording] It is only us Russians that mostly have to talk to them in their own languages. I spoke French, but I preferred to talk to them in Russian. All the more so because you cannot swear in another language. When they really made me angry, I found it easier to speak Russian, because you just cannot say it in French—especially when those Jews attacked me at the consulate. Well, what can you say in French? All the words are so soft and nice. [end recording]

Zhirinovskiy said at the news conference that Russia should under no circumstances join the Council of Europe, which wants to make war on us using our own money. [passage omitted]

Opposition Leaders on Draft Civil Accord Document

PM1504131794 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Apr 94 First Edition p 2

[Yevgeniy Skukin account of interviews with Vasiliy Lipitskiy, chairman of the People's Party of Free Russia; Vladimir Lysenko, cochairman of the Republican Party of the Russian Federation; and Viktor Ilyukhin, representative of State Duma communist faction; place and date not given: "We Are Discussing the Draft Agreement on Civil Accord"]

[Text] **Stabilization Means a Change of Policy**

Vasiliy Lipitskiy, State Duma deputy and chairman of the People's Party of Free Russia: The worrying thing about this voluminous document is that, despite the general nature of its wording, it contains harsh sanctions for violations, the majority of which can be interpreted liberally, like, for example, "destabilizing the situation within society."

At the same time the agreement allows the application of sanctions up to and including the dismissal and removal of a deputy from his seat. I consider that the agreement may become a cause for limiting political freedom, and this cannot be allowed.

One more point. In order to achieve accord there should be policy changes.

Agreements Must Be Implemented

Vladimir Lysenko, State Duma deputy, chairman of the subcommittee for developing federal relations, and cochairman of the Republican Party of the Russian Federation: The way I regard the draft is complex, as the president has already signed various documents of this type on many occasions, but not one of them has played a significant role as they were subsequently violated. What is more they were not violated by political forces but by the president. For example, an agreement was concluded with 15 parties in 1991 which subsequently faded into oblivion. So you cannot really rely on the agreement being equal at the moment. But the draft does contain positive elements. For example, with regard to a moratorium on changing a Federation component's status and the borders between Federation components.

We Are Ready To Present Our Own Solutions

Viktor Ilyukhin, chairman of the State Duma Security Committee and representative of the communist faction: An accord is possible if several of our demands are met. First, if there is a change in the direction of the Russian reforms. It is not possible to reconcile oneself to the masses becoming impoverished. As the government is not putting forward any ways of extricating ourselves from the crisis, we will present our own solutions.

Second, the team which has brought the country to collapse has still not been changed to this day.

Third, we consider that the authorities should undertake never to use the Army for punitive purposes against the people.

Communists Set Terms for Civic Peace Accord

LD1604160194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1251 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Text] The leader of the Russian Communist Party Gennadiy Zyuganov, a Duma member, doubts that a civic peace accord will be signed on April 28, the signing date set by President Yeltsin. He declared in an interview with Interfax on Saturday that many lawmakers would not sign the document offered by the auditing group. The draft consists of three warnings, unacceptable for many: do not touch, as Zyuganov put it, those who are in power and those who led the country to this state, do not touch the constitution, pulled through by one third of the votes, and forget everything that happened in Moscow on October 3-4.

In return, he said, we are promised not to be insulted, but the opposition is not guaranteed the possibility of using media, above all television. This is a straight jacket rather than terms, Zyuganov believes.

In his words, the communist faction in the Duma has formulated basic terms conditions for civic concord and is ready to submit them early next week. These terms include a demand to change the economic course, leading to a social disaster.

The communists also insist on forming a national trust government, comprising representatives of the various political forces that won the elections on December 12. The current government, Zyuganov said, was formed by one force - first by Russia's Choice and then somewhat expanded at the expense of Unity and Concord Party, which is represented in the cabinet by Deputy Premiers Sergey Shakhray and Aleksandr Shokhin.

Besides, as Zyuganov argues, the document must spell out urgent measures to curb the crime, index pensions, compensate for depreciated bank savings, and pay wages.

'Working Russia' Leader Previews May Rallies

LD1504194394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1814 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] The Working Russia movement will "do everything to prevent provocations on May 1" (by the authorities - IF's note), the leader of the movement and the Russian Communist Workers' Party, Viktor Anpilov, told a news conference in Moscow Friday. Anpilov said he feared that exercises by the Moscow OMON (special purpose police units) held a few days ago were connected with the coming May rallies organized by the opposition. In Anpilov's opinion, President Yeltsin is "morally interested in finally removing the issue of early presidential elections" in June 1994 and "needs to provoke disorders, any conflict on the streets of Moscow," in order to be able to blame the opposition.

Anpilov said he was ready to discuss all aspects of the May 1 march with the Moscow authorities. The organizers of the march intend to start from Kaluzhskaya (formerly Oktyabrskaya) square at 11:00 via Yakimanka (formerly Dimitrova street), Bolshoy Kamenny Bridge, the Kremlin Embankment to Vasiliyevskiy Spusk where a festive concert is planned to be held.

If the Moscow authorities do not permit this route, the organizers of the march will propose another one, from the Kaluzhskaya square to the viewing site on the Vorobiyovy (Lenin) Hills along Leninskiy Prospekt, Anpilov said.

When the demonstrators disobeyed to the Moscow authorities in May 1 1993 and moved along this very route, they clashed with regular and special purpose police units. As a result of clashes, one policeman was killed, while dozens of people were injured. A criminal case was filed following the incident, but the State Duma's decision of February 23 1994 declared an amnesty for all participants.

According to Anpilov, this time up to 100,000 people will attend to the demonstration. He told Interfax that Working Russia had formed an unarmed squad of its supporters to maintain order. No less than 300 members of this squad will stand by, while another thousand will be dispersed among the demonstrators. The May 1 rally will be carried out under the slogans "All Power To Workers!" and "No To The Colonization Of Russia!"

In Anpilov's opinion, the May 1 rallies which will be held in all cities will be a rehearsal for a general political strike in Russia. He believes that only wide workers movement is capable of changing the political and economic course within the framework of the Constitution. However, Anpilov declined to indicate any possible dates of the general political strike.

'12 December' Union Platform Viewed

PM1504134194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Apr 94 p 2

[Report by Irina Savvateyeva: "'Decembrists' Now Have Political Platform and Boris Fedorov Has His Own Draft Law"]

[Text] Yesterday the "12 December" parliamentary group published its political platform signed by all 26 "Decembrists." The group will now be called the "12 December" Liberal-Democratic Union.

The "Decembrists'" political platform is based on two fundamental principles: loyalty to liberal-democratic values and a "healthy" conservatism. As we know, the group's leader, Boris Fedorov, had previously opposed "the political extremism of some democrats." In the document on offer the idea of conservatism is reflected in the interpretation of individual elements of social policy (the conservation of the system of free state health care with the gradual development of compulsory medical insurance; the recognition as valid of all awards of the USSR and the retention of their benefits by heroes of the Soviet Union and holders of the orders of Glory) and in the view of global questions of statehood. The "Decembrists" proclaim loyalty to the conservation of the Russian state's unity, putting forward the following slogans: "No to self-determination, yes to self-management," "no to a single-channel tax system," and "we are for unity of status, equal rights and powers for all components of the federation." The thesis of the defense of the Russian-speaking population's rights outside Russia "by all means accessible to the state" has been put forward.

The "Decembrists" are by no means put out by the fact that there is already one liberal-democratic party in Russia. They insist that they are the true liberals and democrats since they consistently defend the principle of

the freedom of the individual and a strong state as a guarantee of the individual's prosperous existence.

The main thesis of the economic platform is: "We are in favor of a firm ruble. Inflation in 1994 should be reduced to 1-3 percent a month." In addition the "Decembrists" advocate financial discipline, are opposed to the issue of all kinds of benefits, and favor a realistic budget, "a one-off reduction of taxes by 15-25 percent to encourage business activity with the simultaneous reduction of state expenditure, and a reduction in the amount and types of taxation."

Social policy, the "12 December" group members believe, should be built on the intensification of targeted support for poor strata of the population.

As for big-league politics, the attitude toward political parties and movements is outlined as follows. "Russia's Choice" and "Yabloko" are "potential allies." But "we are in favor of greater pragmatism and a less politicized approach." The Liberal-Democratic Party—its leadership is "shaming Russia" and its name "does not reflect the essence of that leadership's activity." We are in favor of cooperation with "Women of Russia." We are in favor of collaboration with the Party of Russian Unity and Accord. But only with individual "members close to us in their views." Here it is stipulated that "the position of part of that party's leadership contradicts Russia's interests and does not promote the attainment of civil accord."

In an exclusive interview with IZVESTIYA, Boris Fedorov specified that it is primarily the national-state policy of that "part of the leadership" which the "Decembrists" do not like. Obviously the group disagrees with that part (and they undoubtedly have Sergey Shakhray in mind) also on the question of the political amnesty, which is sharply denounced in the document.

As for the Communists, "we will not accept the majority of their ideological dogmas" but "we see among them sensible people with whom we can cooperate on specific programs." The "Decembrists" see the Agrarian Party members as potential allies although they "do not agree with their present approaches toward economic policy."

The document also outlines the attitude toward the government: "We are not in the opposition." But only "as long as there is a chance of the government continuing constitutional transformations." The idea is also expressed of supporting a coalition government if "the coalition is based on consistent market reforms and loyalty to democratic principles and the principles of a social state."

The "Decembrists" oppose early presidential elections.

Commenting for IZVESTIYA on the aims of the publication of the political platform, Boris Fedorov noted that the main thing "is to agree within the Duma." But he did not rule out the possibility that in the future the proposed theses could become the basis for the political platform of the "Decembrists'" party. But that is obviously a question for the quite remote future: At a press conference devoted to the platform's adoption both Fedorov and Khakamada stated resolutely that they will not set the tasks of creating a party in the immediate future. But work will nonetheless be conducted in the regions, for the members of the union represent the most diverse territories.

"This is not another Moscow elite get-together at which only his staffers stand behind the leader," Boris Fedorov stated.

At the same time observers note that if you combine Fedorov's prestige and "Mrs. Khakamada's ability to earth up people" the party could be successful.

It is true that its electorate remains a serious question for the future party. The problem is that it coincides very much with the electorate of Gaydar's party. Fedorov himself has said on this subject that anyone who wants to come to us can come. This must be understood as meaning good riddance to anyone who does not want to.

At the press conference convened yesterday to present the "Decembrists'" political platform the group's leader also sharply denounced the Russian Government's signing of the agreement on the unification of the Russian and Belarusian monetary systems.

And to ensure that in the future the authorities have no opportunity for making decisions so easily on the unification of monetary systems or of conducting monetary reforms, Boris Fedorov suggests adopting a new law on the Central Bank which he has written. The main difference between this version of the law and the current one is that Fedorov himself believes it leaves less room for voluntarist actions by the Central Bank leadership. And a dual-level system is proposed for the bank's management—trough the council of directors and an observation council—which in the author's opinion will block the adoption of pointless, unconsidered decisions.

'Russian Power Party' Created

LD1704162294 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 17 Apr 94

[Video report by correspondent Sladkov, including recorded comment by Stanislav Terekhov, chairman of the Officers' Union; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Sladkov] The Russian Power Party [Rossiyskaya Derzhavnaya Partiya] is the name of the new political party that today held the second stage of its founding conference in Moscow Oblast. The most active sections of the Officers' Union, the National Salvation Front, and of other small patriotic groupings were the initiators for creating the party.

[Terekhov] We are beginning to work differently from the image of being extremists both in the streets and at meetings by which the people had known us. We are

going to defend our stance in a serious way not by shouting in the streets but by our deeds.

[Sladkov] According to Stanislav Terekhov, from now on the patriots will start nominating their candidates to all levels of state power as the continuation of the struggle to bring to power the people to whom the interests of the country are above everything else. Incidently, every leader always talks about his love for his motherland and if that leader is the supreme leader of the country he should be a professional.

Afghan Veterans Urged To Step Up Political Activity

PM1504133394 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Apr 94 p 2

[Reprint of undated letter from A.A. Kotenev, chairman of the Russian Afghanistan Veterans Council Board: "Calling Afghan War Veterans"]

[Text] This document, bearing an Afghanistan Veterans' Union [AVU] letterhead and marked "For Official Use Only," was distributed to the heads of the organization's regional branches. There is barely any need for comment. It is easy to see what is going on: They are trying to involve Aghanistan war veterans in dangerous games on the side of political forces yearning for power at any price.

[Letter begins] In connection with the rapidly changing sociopolitical situation as a result of the process of the redistribution of material wealth among the major financial and industrial groups, which have already found it necessary to express their own interests in the political sphere and have joined in the active power struggle in the country, the AVU Board is proposing that all regional branches carry out the following measures:

1. At the end of each month, beginning this April, republic, kray, and oblast leaders will report in writing to the AVU Board on the sociopolitical situation in their particular region, the presence of political and public organizations, and their orientation, plans, influence on the masses, and contacts with our movement.

2. In the first report, which we expect by 30 April, we ask you to indicate:

—the precise addresses and telephone numbers of AVU branches, beginning with rayon and settlement components, and also the full names of leaders;
—if any administration leaders in your region are Afghanistan war veterans, whether you have contacts with them (if there are no contacts and mutual understanding, find out the reasons and try to get these people on your side);
—whether there are members of the "Russia's Choice" movement in the region, what posts they occupy, and whether you are seeking a mutual understanding with them;
—the general mood of the population, its political orientation, and the attitude toward local and central authority and our movement;
—whether you have contacts with the local media and at what level. If such contacts do not exist, they should be established immediately and a campaign must begin to propagandize the AVU and its ideas. What newspapers are published in your area, their orientation, addresses, and telephone nunmbers and the full names of the chief editors;
—what work is being done in your area on local self-government elections, if any AVU member has been elected deputy, and whether or not he has severed links with the organization;
—report on the presence of youth and military-patriotic clubs and other associations in your region and what influence you have on them. Resume work immediately in that sphere if you have neglected to do so;
—tell us your proposals on the possibility of a united effort at the future presidential elections.

We ask you to treat this letter as seriously and responsibly as possible. Remember that you have saved the homeland from civil war chaos on two occasions already. You have supported the course of reforms and the institution of president, as guarantor of stability, and the form of political organization in Russia and who will head it will soon depend on us.

We can also report that we are currently making joint preparations with "Russia's Choice" for a founding congress of a new political party.

[signed] A.A. Kotenev, chairman of the Russian Afghanistan Veterans Council Board.

'Strategic Plundering' of Russia Detailed

PM1504121194 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 15 Apr 94 p 1

[Sergey Turchenko report: "Thefts and Borders. Russia's National Wealth Is Leaving for the West by Train"]

[Text] The "democrats'" apocalyptic regime has scored a great number of specific achievements—from the total collapse of industry to the mass closure of maternity homes and kindergartens as being not wanted. But one of the "victories" most worthy of this power is probably the unprecedented flowering of crime in its particularly wild manifestations. Precisely 2,799,714 registered crimes—this is the record figure for 1993.

There is also at first glance a more modest but essentially terrible figure. Last year 9,477 crimes associated with the misappropriation of raw materials and strategic materials, which are being exported on a vast scale to the West, which applauds the anti-Russian reforms, were brought to light. This is not just robbery. Having stripped the shirt off the back of the present generation of Soviet people, the pro-Western regime has organized

the total robbing of our children, grandchildren, and all subsequent descendants by sending the country's natural riches abroad.

The process of misappropriating strategic materials has reached such a terrifying scale that indistinct, albeit somewhat timid, grumbling has begun even in Yerin's department. Some facts and figures were divulged at a recent meeting of journalists with leaders of administrations of the Russian Federation MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs]. Last year the illegal export of 17,800 tonnes of metals, 97,900 tonnes of petroleum products, and 157,400 cubic meters of timber worth a total of more than 18 billion rubles was prevented. This is just the tip of the iceberg. It is difficult even to imagine what quantity of strategic materials nonetheless went to the West.

Militia Major General Vyacheslav Saltaganov, chief of the Russian Federation MVD Main Administration for Economic Crimes, cited the following data. All sorts of output and strategic materials worth 10.6 billion francs arrived in France alone from CIS countries during seven months of last year. And yet this is not the country with the biggest penchant for Russian riches. There are far more greedy countries.

Whose hands are plundering our country? In Saltaganov's opinion, commercial structures, primarily joint ventures, are the chief active force here. They issue orders for thefts of strategic raw materials and then resell them to nearby and distant foreign countries.

"During the two years since the breakup of the USSR," Mikhail Vanin, chief of the Administration for Combatting Smuggling and Violations of Customs Regulations, said, "this problem has passed a critical point. Stable groups of smugglers, who control the process of the extraction and production of strategic materials and export them, have been formed all over the country. They have set up ramified structures in enterprises and export groups, and there are 'windows' on the borders....

"In the USSR there was a state monopoly on foreign trade," he blurted out in a temper, "and so the confusion that exists now did not exist then!"

But why do the MVD and the State Customs Committee keep quiet about this and not strive for a normal state approach to protecting our national riches from plundering? Vladimir Vorozhtsov, chief of the Russian Federation MVD Public Relations Center, made things clear:

"If we were to raise this question, we would at once be called antimarketeers and opponents of reforms!"

Well, well! It turns out that MVD officials are perfectly well aware of who is pilfering our riches, why, and for whom. They are also aware that, within the framework of the present regime, not only is it impossible to secure a state monopoly of foreign trade, but it is also dangerous to personal well-being to speak aloud about this.

It only remains to add that the "democratic" power is programmed to work for the West and in the interests of the West. While this regime lords it in Russia, the strategic plundering of Russia will only increase.

Media Issues

Poltoranin Warns on 'Dangerous' Media Policy

LD1504170694 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1300 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Mikhail Poltoranin, chairman of the State Duma Committee for Information Policy, told a RIA correspondent today that the single information area was in danger of disintegrating. He said that a dangerous policy—characterized by a trend toward replacing the state media with commercial structures interested in having their programs broadcast to central Russia only—could be discerned in the country.

The possibility that the Ostankino company might cut its output from 19 to five and a half hours in every 24 hours gave rise to particular anxiety in this context, Poltoranin noted. He emphasized that the activities of foreign news agencies in Russia also did tremendous damage to the country's sovereignty in the area of information. He said that having received the right to gather information, these agencies immediately disseminated it in the form they found convenient. This trend also posed dangers to the Russian information area, said the chairman of the information policy committee.

Conflict at ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA

MK1504125094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Apr 94 p 2

[INTERFAX report under the "In Brief" rubric]

[Text] Moscow—A conflict continues in the ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA editorial office between the administration and the journalist collective caused by changes in the publication's charter and the list of members of its staff. According to a staffer who asked not to be identified, "in violation of the law on the mass media, the new charter of the publication had not even been discussed at a meeting of the journalist collective." Besides, the proposed reorganization slates nearly 70 percent of journalists for dismissal. They are being offered work at 10 new agencies to be organized on a commercial basis. As the journalist put it, "the charter, the list of staff members, and the accord with the founder—which is the Russian Federation Government—had been concealed from the collective as a "commercial secret" by the newspaper chiefs with its editor, Natalya Polezhayeva, at the head.

Editors' Row Prompts Two Versions of New CIS Paper

MK1604121094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Apr 94 p 2

[Natalya Bespalova report under the "Colleagues" rubric: "Two Newspapers Under the Same Name. One of Them Is Certainly One Too Many"]

[Text] The saying that practice makes perfect is nearly universal. This was confirmed by the publication of SNG: OBSHCHIY RYNOK [CIS: COMMON MARKET]—the first collective newspaper of the CIS countries. The decision on founding it was made 23 December 1993 at the Ashkhabad [Ashgabat] meeting of the CIS heads of government. According to the concept devised by the newspaper's editorial board, which included representatives of all republics that signed the agreement, the new publication was designed to help create a common economic space on CIS territory and also forge closer business contacts between representatives of various states. It was decided to publish the new periodical on the basis of Yegor Yakovlev's OBSHCHAYA GAZETA. The publisher states agreed to earmark 950 million rubles and $200,000 for this purpose. Vitaliy Kovalenko was appointed the newspaper's editor-in-chief.

At the beginning of 1994, however, legal inconsistencies inherent in the agreement on setting up the newspaper sparked a conflict between the OBSHCHAYA GAZETA board and SNG: OBSHCHIY RYNOK's staff, the bulk of which was made up of journalists who left ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA after the October events. On one hand, under the document the OBSHCHAYA GAZETA editorial board is to exercise day-to-day control over the new publication's activity; on the other, it does not have the right to intervene in the work of an independent paper. This discrepancy promptly led to disagreements between Yegor Yakovlev and Vitaliy Kovalenko.

Both sides have been advancing weighty arguments to support their stances, and the dispute over who is to head the new publication threatens to drag on indefinitely. It can be resolved only by a new meeting of the newspaper's editorial board, at which representatives of the CIS member states will have to decide once again on who should steer their periodical. So far, a paradoxical situation has come about where two absolutely different newspapers under the same name—SNG: OBSHCHIY RYNOK—appeared at an interval of three days, on 12 and 15 April. The first one was published by journalists under Vitaliy Kovalenko, the second by the OBSHCHAYA GAZETA staff. Both sides claim that the only genuine newspaper is theirs.

Military & Nuclear Issues

Use of Red Mercury for 'Nuclear Warhead' Revealed

LD1504143094

[Editorial Report] London ITV Television Network in English at 2000 GMT on 13 April in its "Dispatches" program carries a 45-minute report entitled "Pocket Neutron," in which correspondent Gwyn Roberts reviews the findings of an 18-month investigation he conducted into red mercury, a chemical compound allegedly used by the Russians to develop a smaller, more efficient nuclear warhead.

The program opens with various shots of a border crossing in Como, northern Italy, and goes on to include a brief interview with Italian Magistrate Romano Dolce on the smuggling of red mercury through Italy. Asked about its final destination, Dolce, speaking in Italian with English subtitles, says: "Israel, Iraq, Iran, South Africa, and the rest of the world. Even Western countries like the United States seem interested in red mercury. Why should it be top secret? Why this silence? Why this fear of talking about it?"

Brief clips are then shown of Vladimir Zhirinovskiy during his visit to Serbia in February this year, followed by various street scenes in Moscow. Roberts then introduces a recording of an interview he conducted with an unidentified Kremlin official who, he says, has access to full government intelligence. Roberts asks: "What proof do you have that there is such a substance?" The official replies: "The hardest evidence is the report prepared by the first chief directorate of the KGB. This report was prepared especially for Boris Yeltsin. The conclusion of this report is that there is no doubt that red mercury exists."

Roberts asks: "What military applications of red mercury are listed in the KGB report?" The official states: "The production of fuses of high precision for conventional bombs. The production of fuses for nuclear bombs. The production of military equipment coating to avoid radar detection, production of warheads for self-guided missiles of high precision."

Asked whether red mercury represents new technology, the official replies: "I think it does." He goes on to say that Iraq, Libya, Israel, and South Africa all wish to purchase red mercury because they all want nuclear weapons.

Roberts is then seen at the Moscow metro where he meets an unidentified former nuclear chemist who worked at a secret plant in the Urals. They are then seen in an apartment where the chemist is interviewed. Roberts asks why everyone denies that red mercury exists. The chemist replies: "Because of reasons of secrecy." Roberts asks: "Why should they want to keep it secret?"

The chemist says: "Because it is the latest technology. If it is available to the Third World it may be a serious danger to existing order."

Still photographs are then shown of containers labeled RM 2020, followed by clips of diagrams of how red mercury can be used and a government document on the existence of the substance. A person described as the head of the Promocology company exhibits what purports to be the raw material for RM 2020. Scenes of the Moscow White House siege of 1993 are then shown.

Roberts then interviews an unidentified military scientist in Moscow, who he says worked as a nuclear physicist producing RM 2020 for five years. Roberts asks: "Why is red mercury such a mystery?" The scientist replies: "The fact is that it is the latest technology which allows an atom bomb to be made very simply." Roberts asks: "So you are saying that with red mercury and nuclear materials an atom bomb could be easily assembled by Third World countries?" The scientist replies: "Yes, that could happen." Asked how red mercury would be used, the scientist states: "It can reduce the critical mass and increase the power of the explosion."

The program shows street scenes in Ekaterinburg and a meeting with former nuclear physicist Yevgeniy Korolov, who replies to Dr. Taylor's questions. Korolov says: "This technology is one of the most complex and one of the most dangerous. It enables you to create micro-nuclear charges. This means it can be used for nuclear terrorism."

The program concludes with a visit by Roberts to a security company near Bonn, which trades with Russia and has business links with secret military plants producing radioactive isotopes. A document acquired in Ekaterinburg is shown which demonstrates that this company wishes to purchase 1,000 kg of RM 2020, cutting to what is described as a list of the chemical properties of RM 2020.

Officers' Group Seeks Cancellation of U.S. Exercises

LD1804001094 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 2330 GMT 17 Apr 94

[Text] The participants in the All-Union Congress of the Union of Officers held in Moscow's suburbs have decided to ask the Russian military leadership to cancel the joint Russian-American military exercises planned for the summer of this year. The Union of Officers regards assisting and participating in the maneuvers as treason. The Congress passed a resolution assessing the recent air strikes against Bosnia as preparing a bridgehead for the mounting of aggression against Russia and other Slav states. In this connection the delegates demanded an immediate convocation of the UN Security Council to end the escalation of the violence and genocide of the Serbian people. This was reported by the Interfax agency.

Defense Minister Signs Order on Draft

LD1604092294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0847 GMT 16 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow April 16 TASS—To execute Presidential Decree No. 784 Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev on Friday signed Order No. 116 on drafting Russian Federation citizens into military service in paril-June 1994 and transferring soldiers, sailors, sergeants, sergeants-major, petty officers and military builders who served the terms of military duty, to the reserve, the Defence Ministry's Directorate for Information and the press announced on Saturday. Under the order, subject to the draft are Russian Federation citizens born in 1967-1976 who are not entitled to deferment or exemption from the draft.

Military Works Out Environmental Defense for North

LD1804161294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0934 GMT 18 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

[Text] Mirnyy (Arkhangelsk region) April 18 TASS—A programme for the environmental defence of the Russian north has been worked out by scientists working with the state strategic missile testing complex. The programme allows the military to estimate the damage caused to the environment by missile fuel and other harmful things, and to decrease the amount of damage caused to nature along the missiles' flight path.

"600 rocket and rocket-carrier launchings have been made in the last ten years. That is what forced us to start researching environmental problems", ITAR-TASS was told by Colonel Viktor Omelchenko, head of the testing area's computer centre.

The programme was worked out by the testing area's leading specialists and is a data and reference system which shows which areas are most subject to damage and the various levels of pollution. On the basis of such statistics, conclusions may be drawn and certain steps undertaken. The programme is unique, since it is concentrated on a concrete area, the environmentally fragile Russian north.

According to Omelchenko, Russian cooperation with American military scientists has led to great interest in the latter's missile-related environmental programme, which has been thoroughly worked out.

The United States programme's starting theses are significantly different from the Russian ones. For example, the flight trajectory of missiles and missile-launchers goes over the Pacific Ocean. However, the two countries' cooperation in this sphere is still very helpful.

"The programme which we have created is the first step to the development of an environmental monitoring system to keep track of the situation as it develops", stressed Colonel Omelchenko.

Security Chief: Troops Can Be Used To Fight Crime

LD1504154394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1350 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] In a letter to St. Petersburg's Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak Secretary Oleg Lobov of the Russian Security Council said the Russian military doctrine allowed the use of army units against organized crime if a region of the Russian Federation came under threat. The letter answers Sobchak's request for additional powers in the fight against crime. But, Lobov said, the Ministry of Internal Affairs must authorize the use of troops under its control.

According to Lobov, President Yeltsin was working on a decree on immediate moves for the protection of the citizens' constitutional rights and freedoms from criminal attacks. The decree would lay a legal foundation for the use of army units in anti-mafia operations and in a bid to maintain law and order. Bodies of the executive branch would enjoy the right to commit troops to action.

The decree would also grant the executive branch additional powers for controlling internal migration. Draft bills which introduce tougher penalties for unauthorized entry and stay in the Russian Federation, had been prepared and sent to the government. According to Lobov, the Mayor of St. Petersburg can, in his capacity as the chairman of the anti-crime and anti-corruption commission, coordinate moves by law and order bodies and plan long-term and immediate anti-crime actions in the region under his control.

Chernomyrdin Launches New Destroyer in Petersburg

LD1704111494 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 1030 GMT 17 Apr 94

[Text] RIA reports: Russia needs a powerful, modern navy, Russian Federation Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said at a ceremony to raise the St. Andrew's flag over the new destroyer, Intrepid [Besstrashnyy], to bring it into service. The destroyer handed over to the Russian Navy today is the first naval ship to be launched for two years. Viktor Chernomyrdin noted that the task of constructing a new Russian fleet is being tackled under extremely difficult conditions connected with the loss of a number of military bases in the Baltic, on the Black Sea, and the Caspian, and also with the difficult economic condition and the complicated political situation.

Border Guards Chief Appointed Security Council Member

LD1804104194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1015 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow April 18 ITAR-TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin confirmed by decree the appointment of Aleksandr Nikolayev, the commander-in-chief of the border troops of the Russian Federation, a member of the National Security Council of the Russian Federation. This was announced by the presidential press service.

Rocket, Artillery Academy Recreated

LD1704114994 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 17 Apr 94

[Text] First Deputy Defense Minister Andrey Kokoshin announced the recreation of the Russian Academy of Rocket and Artillery Sciences during a visit to the St. Petersburg Artillery Museum on Saturday. He said that a decree on this was signed by Russian President Boris Yeltsin on 5 April. Sixty-nine research institutes and military-industrial firms have become founders of the academy. Professor Vladimir Keyeyev, doctor of technical sciences, has been elected president of the academy. The Russian Information Agency recalls that the artillery academy was originally set up in 1946 and closed down in 1953.

Deputy Defense Minister on Arms Industry Crisis

AU1804090194 Hamburg DIE ZEIT in German 15 Apr 94 pp 33-35

[Interview with Andrey Afanasyevich Kokoshin, first deputy defense minister, by Christian Schmidt-Haeuer; date, place not given: "'We Have Come Very Close To Strikes'"]

[Text] [Schmidt-Haeuer] Russia's Armed Forces and its arms industry are threatened with being dried out financially. You have recently warned that, as a result of the budget cuts, the army might get out of control. Is Russia—in a time of peace—threatened by a military and arms technological collapse?

[Kokoshin] There is in practice never a hopeless situation, because a way out can always be found. In this case the way out is to restructure the budget. This applies mainly to the revenue side. My main criticism was directed against the fact that the spending was planned without a sufficient guarantee of revenue. This is why we are being affected by this budget, although not only the Defense Ministry but also in the spheres of culture, science, and social affairs.

[Schmidt-Haeuer] Still, in this situation the army is a very special budget item.

[Kokoshin] About 70 percent of our concrete military spending now goes on personnel costs and social benefits. This is why we are in the same boat as science and

culture, with doctors and teachers. We do not stand on the other side of the riverbank. Another thing is, of course, that here we are talking of money to be spent on providing guarantees for people in uniform and with guns in their hand; and also for those who produce the arms.

[Schmidt-Haeuer] Through military reform, President Yeltsin wants to facilitate the restructuring of the defense budget to the benefit of social support. Can one really combine the modernization of the army and social emergency supply?

[Kokoshin] There are a number of concrete decisions, one of which is the president's decree on the stabilization of the situation in the arms industry. The president determines that at least 10 percent of defense spending has to be used for research and development. This is intended to guarantee the preservation of the scientific-technological potential.

However, at the same time we are facing enormous social problems. Let us take housing construction, for example. It is now eating up more than 90 percent of the funds for our military construction program—after all, we have to accommodate those members of the military who go into the reserves as a result of troop reductions. Here the situation has deteriorated even from last year. In the first three months of 1994 the financing of housing construction unfortunately reached less than 20 percent of the planned quota. The situation also looks very bad as far as paying for arms is concerned—although state orders had been cut to the minimum even before.

[Schmidt-Haeuer] What effects does this have in concrete terms?

[Kokoshin] Now as then, many enterprises and entire cities are dependent on arms orders. Even though the share of arms and military technology has been reduced there in favor of civilian goods, the management continues to burden the total costs for the entire social infrastructure, that is to say kindergartens, polyclinics, schools, and frequently even technical colleges, only on the prices for arms products. And the city and communal administrative bodies hesitate to take over the social facilities because their revenue is still insufficient despite the new tax law. So far, they have only picked those complexes that they were able to lease out immediately for a profit. This is how part of defense spending is financing hidden unemployment....

[Schmidt-Haeuer] And to what extent has this spending been cut overall?

[Kokoshin] Unfortunately, our orders for the arms industry were cut by 67 percent in 1992 alone. This is unparalleled in any other country. In 1992 we bought a total of 20 tanks from our industry—in 1988 the number was still 2,800. And the considerably extended amount of civilian products did not find enough buyers either—neither state nor private ones.

[Schmidt-Haeuer] This means that the conversion of enterprises is not worthwhile?

[Kokoshin] Many enterprises have considerably increased the range of their civilian products. The tank construction plant at Nishniy Tagil, for example, has been converted to the production of railroad tankers and loading machines [Lademaschinen] amid great fuss. Yet, now these tankers are crowding the storage yards. The Railroads Ministry does not have the money to buy them. Radio satellites cannot be bought by the Ministry for Telecommunications, nor can it afford to buy the rockets to launch them.

[Schmidt-Haeuer] In order to pay the state's orders to the arms industry, the state would have to spend five times as much as planned in the 1994 draft budget.

[Kokoshin] The figures presented by the Finance Ministry are unrealistic. However, now there is the proposal that government and the State Duma together draw up the 1994 budget again. After the extremely tough confrontations last year, there is thus the opportunity to work out a new budget in the spirit of national accord—thus, in the spirit of the policy that President Yeltsin has now proclaimed and that is supported by the chairmen of both parliamentary chambers.

[Schmidt-Haeuer] But former Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy has just come out very harshly against Yeltsin's offer of reconciliation. And Rutskoy is also a military officer....

[Kokoshin] He is no longer a military officer. And such an attitude seems completely wrong to me. Now we really have an opportunity for national reconciliation. And we need it urgently. I am convinced that the overwhelming majority of our people also want it.

[Schmidt-Haeuer] A high-ranking representative of the interests of the arms industry has warned against a wave of strikes. He says that the miners just have a piece of coal in their hands, but the arms companies have poison or intermediate-range missiles, which almost any unqualified worker could launch from the factory's yard. How serious is the mood in reality?

[Kokoshin] Unfortunately, we have come very close to strikes, even though the most disciplined people are working in the arms sectors. And they are also aware that they are in a situation that is a bit different from that of the miners, that other laws apply to them. However, in the factories there is indeed a mood that indicates strikes. Last autumn I had to settle several such conflicts. In September the staff of a large arms company went on strike. The women took the protest to the streets. We had to take a lot of money out of many other companies to pay them their wages and to pay support to them for another two months. Such situations are escalating again now, so I do not want to underestimate the danger of strikes.

[Schmidt-Haeuer] How many arms companies have closed down because of bankruptcy, and for how many is this danger imminent?

[Kokoshin] From the legal point of view, I do not think that a single one has been closed down, because the local administrations are doing everything to avert this danger. Since we lack social security and an unemployment benefit system and people are not mentally prepared for life without work, closing down companies and lay-offs feel like the apocalypse for the local authorities.

However, I do not believe that the situation is hopeless. Even if they get only small financial infusions, many companies would certainly be able not only to start working again but to continue the policy of modernization and production conversion. If certain incentives are given by the government, we can expect that private businessmen and banks will also invest in the industry. However, without a strong incentive by the government to develop the infrastructure, that is, transportation, communications, and the energy sector, it will be very difficult to get out of the crisis. The invisible hand of the market still works very badly.

[Schmidt-Haeuer] And the visible hand of the state does not work any better, either, at least for the time being....

[Kokoshin] The state is not fulfilling its obligations. We used to be the scapegoat for the people. Now they realize that it is not our Ministry's fault.

[Schmidt-Haeuer] But that does not provide food. Anyone who can tries to earn his keep elsewhere. The fear of Russian scientists emigrating, and of the illegal export of uranium and highly developed weapons and technologies continues.

[Kokoshin] Such dangers certainly exist. The hunt for experts continues. And there are people who cannot do anything other than build weapons. For their minds any kind of conversion is too late. Therefore, it is so important to preserve and finance an appropriate level of arms production to keep these experts in Russia—in a Russia that continues along the path of democracy and market economy.

[Schmidt-Haeuer] But you yourself, in an interview, have attributed yet another state assignment to the arms industry, namely to be the most important resource of competitiveness.

[Kokoshin] However, I put the emphasis on something else on principle. There I made the establishment of a science-intensive high-tech civilian production a priority—but on the basis of the resources of the defense complex. This is our main potential to assume a worthy place among the great powers, among the developed industrialized nations. For me this seems to be a more important aspect for the state's security in the broadest sense—beyond military power and military technology.

Economic Issues

Chernomyrdin Addresses Petersburg EBRD Session

LD1804102394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0912 GMT 18 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[Text] St. Petersburg April 18 TASS—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin today addressed the opening session of the board of directors of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development [EBRD], which is holding its third annual meeting here today.

Viktor Chernomyrdin told the EBRD leaders and prominent statesmen and business people from the bank's fifty-seven stockholding countries that the forum in St. Petersburg is "a weighty testimony to the fact that the anxiety and uncertainty felt by our international partners about the fact of economic reforms in Russia, so pronounced at the beginning of the year, are now giving room to other sentiments and different expectations".

For his part, the Russian prime minister said "quite definitely and responsibly" that the policy of financial stabilisation, further reforms and restructuring of the national economy will remain the pivot of the Russian economic policy. Chernomyrdin pointed to the results of the first months of this year as bearing out his statement. In February and March, the inflation growth rate fell beneath ten per cent and the April figures will not differ considerably. The federal budget for the end of 1994 has been drafted with a deficit of about nine per cent of the gross product. It means that given the steady main parameters, the inflation growth rate will dwindle to seven per cent before the year is out.

The discussion of the draft budget in the Federal Assembly is proceeding with difficulties, Viktor Chernomyrdin stressed. The draft has been approved as the basis, and "we shall take into account any modifications approved by the deputies in line with the overall logic of the reforms carried out in Russia.

Political and financial stabilisation has already yielded its first fruit—demand restrictions have begun to work. Although the production slump has been increasing since the beginning of the year, it has acquired a clear-cut structural character.

"We are now at the deepest point of the crisis," the prime minister said. The Russians have come quite close to the frontier beyond which U-turn can occur in the main negative tendencies which determined our development in the past two-three years. But the U-turn can occur only if investments liven up", Chernomyrdin said. The Russian premier appealed to the representatives of the European bank for reconstruction and development and the delegations from industrialised countries and

international financial organisations to step up their activities on the Russian market.

Annual meetings of the board of directors of the EBRD traditionally examine the results of the bank's activity for the preceding year and determine guidelines for the next year. As concerns Russia, central bank officials told ITAR-TASS that the European bank has approved loans to fund 21 projects in Russia, including major ones, such as the development of the oilfield in the Arctic area of the Pechora basin, worth 300 million USD. By the end of this year, the number of approved projects, which are now being prepared, may reach fifty.

Predicts 7-8 Percent Inflation

LD1804082294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0729 GMT 18 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Igor Ignatyev and Sergey Oleynik]

[Text] St. Petersburg April 18 TASS—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin pledged adherence to market reforms and predicted that inflation may be curtailed to 7-8 per cent by the end of the year if the budget drafted for 1994 is approved by the State Duma.

"The course towards reforms, financial stabilisation and economic restructuring remains the backbone of the Russian economic policy", Chernomyrdin told a meeting of the governors of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development which opened in the second biggest Russian city on Monday.

He recalled that in the first quarter of 1994 inflation was below the 10 per cent level and predicted it would be further curtailed to monthly 7-8 per cent by the end of the year "if the planned parametres of the budget are preserved". The Russian State Duma gave an outline approval to the draft budget, but demanded that the government introduces certain corrections to it.

Meets G-7 Officials

LD1704150694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1340 GMT 17 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[Text] St. Petersburg, 17 Apr—The coordination of international assistance for Russian reforms, particularly the problem of creating a multilateral agency to guarantee foreign investment against non-commercial risks—this and other issues were discussed at a closed meeting held today in the Yusupov Palace in St. Petersburg between Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and delegations from the Group of Seven industrially developed Western countries and international financial organizations.

Chernomyrdin noted at the meeting that the Russian leadership is firmly adhering to its policy of continuing the reforms and sees no other way forward. We have come a long way in implementing market transformations and one can already talk about certain successes, the Russian prime minister said. In the first place we have brought down inflation, and steadied it at eight or nine percent a month.

Chernomyrdin thanked the Western partners for taking part in the meeting. Taking part in the meeting on the Russian side were Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin, Central Bank Chairman Viktor Gerashchenko, Acting Finance Minister Sergey Dubinin and other officials.

EBRD Chairman Comments

LD1804063994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0545 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Excerpt] St. Petersburg, 18 Apr (TASS)—[passage omitted] "The St. Petersburg meeting is a major and important event. The fact itself that 4,000 to 5,000 business people will arrive here to participate in the annual meeting of the EBRD [European Bank for Reconstruction and Development] is of a great importance both for the city and for Russia. Seminars and events organized by different countries, and other contacts should promote mutual understanding and business opportunities. I hope that after this week in St. Petersburg, the bank will gain the very strong support of all its members", said EBRD chairman Jacques de Larosiere on the eve of the meeting in an exclusive ITAR-TASS interview.

EBRD Credits for Satellite

LD1704105794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1044 GMT 17 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Ignatyev]

[Text] St. Petersburg April 17 TASS—The EBRD [European Bank for Reconstruction and Development] will grant a 10.3 million dollar credit to the Russian space industry which will be used for launching into space the European "Inmarsat" satellite by the Russian "Proton" booster rocket. The ceremony of signing this credit agreement in St. Petersburg was attended by Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

The EBRD President Jacques de Larosiere described this agreement as an important and symbolic act. He pointed out that the agreement is an example of integration of Russia's high technologies into the international market.

During the signing ceremony Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin described the agreement as the beginning of "a long road". "St. Petersburg is a window to Europe opening the way for our partners. We realize that much will depend on us, but we must create conditions to enable them to work normally," Chernomyrdin said.

Shakhray Favors State Regulation, Protectionism

LD1804105994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1010 GMT 18 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Yelmakov]

[Text] Novosibirsk April 18 TASS—Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Shakhray supported state regulation and protectionism in the regional policy, when he was speaking today at a scientific and practical conference in Novosibirsk. The purpose of the conference is to work out a strategy of stabilising the economic situation in the region.

The diversity of regions and the multinational character of the Russian state are not the source of its weakness, but, on the contrary, a factor of its potential might. At the same time, he pointed to the growing disproportion among regions and a trend towards economic disintegration. According to Shakhray, some regions are stepping up economic transformations, others are preserving old methods and approaches to the economic development. There is not a single region in Russia without problems today, he said.

Shakhray described as rather ineffective the market-oriented mechanisms of eliminating disproportions in the development of the regions. This is why, he continued, a tougher regional policy is needed, whose main task will be to bring to naught the contrasts between living standards of the population of various regions.

The conference is being attended by representatives of 25 regions of Russia, of the Federation Council, the State Duma, many ministries and organisations, as well as by scientists.

Fuel Minister: Russia Can Secure Energy Surplus

LD1604153394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1251 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Text] Russia can implement a comprehensive program to advance its fuel and energy complex, to secure an energy surplus and, in the long run, enable Russia to stay an industrialized country, the Russian Fuel and Energy Minister Yuriy Shafranik has declared in an interview with the Oil Information Agency.

The fuel and energy complex will, in his words, be developed by supporting big integrated companies and by encouraging investment in viable oil and gas, coal, and energy enterprises. In his opinion, the Russian government's major achievement has been its policy to consolidate the Russian fuel and energy complex's positions world wide and its promotion of economic cooperation with the neighboring states."

He recalled in this connection that Russia and Ukraine had agreed to turn the Lisichan oil refinery in Ukraine into a joint-stock company with Russia to share up to 60 percent of its stock. He also recalled that Russia and Belarus had agreed to share the stock of the Mozyrskiy oil refinery. Russian oil companies will take part in oil and gas projects in Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, and Azerbaijan.

One of the biggest Russian oil companies Lookoil has signed with the Azerbaijani government an agreement on a 10 percent participation of the company in a major international project to develop the Azeri and Charak deposits. Besides, Lookoil and Ajip of Italy intend to boost oil extraction in Tunisia. According to Lookoil experts, oil gushed out of the first well drilled by Russian specialists in Tunisia. Russian specialists will also prospect for oil and develop oil fields in Nigeria.

Shafranik described as a contract of strategic importance the agreement signed by Russia, Kazakhstan, Oman and the American Chevron company to set up a Caspian pipe-line consortium. Such a consortium has come into being and has worked out a project to lay a long-distance oil pipe line from Tengiz to Novorossiysk via Komsomolskaya and Tikhoretsk to transport up to 62 million tonnes of oil a year. The plan also provides for building an oil terminal at Novorosiysk with an annual capacity of 15 million tonnes.

"This is the only project to ship oil from Kazakhstan within the coming 20-30 years. Quite autonomous terminals of our industry have already provided for 25 percent of export there. We have also managed to keep and stabilize oil extraction in Vietnam. We have secured an agreement on a Sakhalin-2 tender, have sped up work on Sakhalin-1, have made Sakhalin-3 and Sakhalin-4 tenders possible, which is a tremendous success since a bonus to the tender sponsors alone will fetch $130 million," Shafranik reported.

Grain Procurement To Fall 1 Million Tonnes

MK1604125094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 16 Apr 94 p 3

[Unattributed ADS report: "Procurement Prices for 1994 Crops Will Be 180,000 to 200,000 Rubles Per Tonne"]

[Text] Procurement prices for 1994 crops will be on average "not less than 180,000 to 200,000 rubles [R] per tonne." In 1993, this sum constituted R57,000. This was the conclusion made 14 April by the Russian Federation Government's Food Commission. In the current year the government will procure 10.7 million tonnes of grain into the federal food fund designed to supply military and same-status categories of citizens, as well as for other purposes, which is 1.1 million tonnes less than in 1993. The government will allocate R1.6 trillion in budget loans to raise federal grain funds and, in addition, 5.5 trillion to 6 trillion will be channeled for these purposes from the state fund to ship foodstuffs to Upper North areas.

Federal Assembly

State Duma Adopts Budget 'in Principal'

LD1504193994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1814 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] On Friday the State Duma made a third attempt to adopt a resolution on Russia's federal budget for 1994. It was successful. The government-submitted draft budget was adopted "in principal." As many as 225 deputies voted for the resolution, 57 - against, and 21 abstained from voting. During the previous rounds of voting the draft resolution failed to collect the necessary 225 votes.

An extraordinary sitting of the State Duma Council convened by speaker Ivan Rybkin just after the budget's adoption coordinated changes in the draft resolution which was later approved by the deputies.

The resolution proposes to the government to revise the draft budget within two weeks by introducing changes into the budget's major characteristics in accordance with the recommendations of the lower chamber's committee and to determine the budgets for the 3rd and 4th quarters of 1994 separately.

The document states that the draft budget submitted by the government does not coincide with the prognosis of the country's social-economic development for 1994 and does not correspond to the priorities in social-economic policy announced in the Russian president's address to the Federal Assembly and the program of the Russian government entitled Development of Reforms and Stabilization of Russian Economy.

Deputies also believe that the expenditure part of the federal budget does not contain appropriations provided for by presidential decrees and government resolutions adopted this year. The deputies also pointed out that the draft budget provides for reduction of expenditures of the constituent members of the Federation with the simultaneous expansion of expenditures and strengthens tax pressure on producers. The resolution also proposes to the government to submit a draft of the federal budget for next year this September.

In the course of the debates leader of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDPR] Vladimir Zhirinovskiy declared that his faction would support the draft budget only if the parliament speaker reported to the Russian president the request of the LDPR to dismiss three ministers. Zhirinovskiy "is dissatisfied" with the activity of Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, Vice Premier Anatoliy Chubays, and Interior Minister Viktor Yerin.

'Doubts' on Draft Budget

MK1404103094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 14 Apr 94 p 2

[Stanislav Koltsov report in the "Budget" column: "Sergey Glazyev Has Sent the Budget Back to the Council of Ministers. The Duma Hoped To Begin Its Consideration on Friday"]

[Text] Three days before the parliament's lower chamber was to begin discussing the budget, the State Duma's Economic Policy Committee decided to send it back to the government for amendment. The committee's conclusion on the draft federal budget for 1994 says in particular that the "authenticity" of the macroeconomic forecast underlying the draft budget "causes great doubts," proceeding from the correlation of the GNP deflation index in the first quarter compared to the same period in 1993 (7.8 percent). True, the Finance Ministry also criticized the deflation indicators included in the so-called "second" version of the "forecast." The authors of the conclusion believe that the rate of inflation, as well as of production decline, will be much higher than the forecasted level, and furthermore they assess as "unrealistic" the estimated budget revenues and expenditures as shown in the draft.

Second, the Economic Policy Committee considers the draft budget proposed by the government "inadequate" to the priorities of socioeconomic development "set forth in the program materials of the Russian Federation president and government." Analyzing the structure of federal budget expenditures, the committee deems it essential to state that "only such structural policy priorities as the development of the agro-industrial complex and the fuel and energy sector have been ensured state support," while "insufficient financing of major directions of structural and science and technical policy will not allow in 1994 to break the dangerous trends toward the country's de-industrialization and irreversible destruction of its scientific and technical potential." In addition, the committee believes that "a natural form of implementing structural policy priorities should be special-purpose federal programs approved by the State Duma for the entire period of their implementation."

The Economic Policy Committee, furthermore, assesses as unsatisfactory the work to raise additional budget revenues. In this connection the committee recommends abolishing all concessions in paying taxes, customs duties, and other obligatory deductions that contradict current legislation and also fail to stimulate a growth of internal demand and do not arise from structural policy priorities.

"In order to assist the Russian Federation Government in finalizing the draft federal budget," the committee proposes that a parliament-government commission be set up to draw up a realistic forecast for the Russian Federation's economic development in 1994 and 1995; that the 1994 draft budget be reworked on a quarterly basis; and that coordinated targets for state economic

policy in 1994 and 1995 be elaborated as well as programs for their implementation, in accordance with the provisions of the presidential message and recommendations of parliamentary hearings in the State Duma.

Finance Minister Reports

PM1804110794 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Apr 94 First Edition pp 1,2

[Unattributed report: "Draft Budget Discussed"]

[Text] Yesterday the State Duma session examined the draft federal Law "On the Federal Budget for 1994." Sergey Dubinin, acting Russian finance minister, and Mikhail Zadornov, chairman of the Duma Committee for the Budget, Taxes, Banks, and Finances, delivered reports.

Sergey Dubinin stressed that when drawing up the draft budget for 1994 the Russian Federation Government opted for a version intermediate between a tough financial policy which would allow inflation to be lowered to 5 percent per month but would be very painful and an attempt at pumping the economy full of money, which would lead to 50 percent inflation. He reported that they have planned a budget revenue base of 120.7 trillion rubles [R], a deficit of R62.4 trillion, and expenditure of R183.1 trillion.

Inflation remains "enemy number one," he said. Ten percent inflation per month is now planned, with a reduction to 7 percent by the end of the year. The budget deficit planned for the current year is 8-9 percent of GDP. Part of the deficit, roughly 6 percent of gross product, will be covered by Central Bank loans.

Commenting on the revenue side of the budget, Sergey Dubinin noted that a sharp increase in total revenue is not expected. Whereas last year it was 10 percent of GDP for the federal budget and 14 percent for the budgets of the territories, this current year a total of 12 percent of GDP is planned. The speaker noted that it is planned to take effective measures to stop tax evasion.

Regarding the allocation of budget expenditure, the minister reported that R48.5 trillion has been appropriated for defense and the law-enforcement agencies; R48.1 trillion for state support for sectors of the national economy; R24.5 trillion to help the regions; R16.8 trillion to service the state debt; and R12.2 trillion for social measures.

Mikhail Zadornov, chairman of the Duma Committee for the Budget, Taxes, Banks, and Finances, advocated revising the 1994 draft budget. He proposed, in particular, that the budget deficit be increased from the current 34 percent to 43-45 percent. The committee chairman considers that the revenue side of the budget requires amplification, as he fears that many sources of income will not be able to yield the return the government expects. It is also necessary, according to Zadornov, to abolish concessions on customs duties and consolidate extrabudgetary funds.

Mikhail Zadornov even reported that the committee he heads considers it right to ratify the budget for the first six months and to instruct the Russian Federation government to submit to the Duma the draft budgets for the third and fourth quarters of the current year, that is to say, to switch to the practice of examining the budget quarter by quarter. We will thereby, he considers, "ensure the government takes account of our proposals and really controls the implementation of the budget." The Russian Government, the Duma committee chairman said, has also been instructed to submit the 1995 budget to the Duma no later than September this year.

For his part, deputy committee chairman Aleksandr Pochinok, expressing a "dissenting view" on this issue, proposed that the draft budget be passed on the first reading. He stated, in particular, here that the proposed budget deficit increase to 43-45 percent would entail rapidly increasing inflation.

Budget Procedure Agreement

MK1604103094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 16 Apr 94 p 2

[Aleksey Kirpichnikov report under the "Harmony" rubric: "Government and State Duma Find Common Language. Budget Infusions To Be Put in Order"]

[Text] The State Duma has made what might at first glance seem as minor amendments to its rules of procedure, but what in legal terms has marked a certain turn in relations between the representative and executive authorities. The issue is that under Article 104 of the Constitution draft laws that call for federal budget appropriations cannot be submitted for State Duma consideration without the government's expert opinion. By including this article in the Fundamental Law its authors tried to insure themselves against the practice of the RSFSR's Supreme Soviet and Congress where the adoption of laws to the greatest detriment of the budget seemed to be the domestic deputies' favorite sport. Out of inertia, the new parliamentarians have tried to go back to their former hobby only to run into Article 104.

Initially, lawyers among deputies have found a loophole: what is required under the Constitution is just a government opinion regardless of what it says. For instance, a law on a 100-fold rise in the salaries of commercial bank directors to be financed by the state could cost 1 trillion rubles from the budget, of which the government would advise the State Duma, deeming the initiative inappropriate, but the deputies could well spurn the opinion and pass the draft law just the same. This is why the government did not see any reason to rush with writing its opinions. The State Duma's unilateral attempt to impose time limits on the executive branch would have certainly been unconstitutional.

The situation was definitely abnormal, but the two sides have reached an agreement and decided to formalize it legally: On 11 April the government decreed that letters with opinions on draft laws regarding federal budget expenditures must be prepared within 14 days. The period may be extended to 30 days if it is necessary to obtain additional information which is not provided for in the state accounting system. Moreover, the government obliged federal authorities to draw up opinions on State Duma draft laws at its request within 7 or 15 days, the latter if there is a need to obtain extra information. Finally, should a sponsor of the draft law or a Federation component fail to submit the requisite information, the government decreed that the dispute would be resolved upon agreement with the lower chamber.

The State Duma has gone its part of the way, too. The amendments to its rules of procedure effectively repeat the government document, except for the provision on giving assignments to executive agencies, something the lower chamber is not entitled to do.

The State Duma was surprisingly swift in considering the rules of procedure amendments, and Deputy Baburin's remark that the decree is very important, because it affects the status of both the government and the State Duma—which is why there is no reason to be too hasty in adopting it before the law on deputy status is passed—did not find a response among the parliamentarians. Maybe one of the reasons is that the report on the agreement was delivered by "the biggest leaf on both branches of power"—Sergey Shakhray, who is at the same time a deputy prime minister in the government and a State Duma faction leader.

'Businesslike' Hearings on Privatization Program

PM1504105994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Apr 94 p 2

[Report by Igor Karpenko: "Parliament's Discussion of Privatization in Russia Unusually Calm So Far"]

[Text] Joint hearings on the results of privatization took place in the Russian parliament 12 April. Considering past experience of such events, they were amazingly calm and businesslike. According to Anatoliy Chubays' report, the major results of check privatization were the creation of a major stratum of private owners (around 40 million) and a stock market, as well as a new—to us, that is—investment institution: investment funds, of which there are now more than 650. He spent a further hour answering numerous deputies' questions, practically none of them aggressive or angry, surprisingly enough. Now were there any quesitons of this kind during the discussion of the results.

The tranquil atmosphere in the hall was surprising also because the substantial file of materials prepared for the hearings, weighing in at 1.5 kg, included some explosive findings by deputies' groups, accusing the Committee for the Management of State Property of all manner of mortal sins. For instance, the "Russian Way" ["Rossiyskiy Put"] deputies' group, headed by I. Anichkin and S. Baburin, finds that the current privatization "contains the roots of a speculative, mafia, criminal economy," "robs working people, contains the roots of a civil war and possible return to totalitarianism," and so on. While Mr. Zhirinovskiy, on behalf of the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia], in his typically forthright manner, simply prposed that an audit be carried out and that criminal actions be taken against the privatizers.

But these charges were totally absent from the speeches at the hearings, indeed there was no political debate at all—according to one deputy, the discussion was not about "political economy and not about economic policy." But the hearings have not ended and will be continued next week. Maybe the aggressively minded section of the corps of deputies intends to try to obstruct privatization then.

Evidently believing there was no possibility of a political scandal, some deputies started to drift away as soon as the discussion began. By the end of the hearings you had the chronic disease of the former parliament—only around one-fourth of those who had originally assembled were still present.

I put the following question to Anatoliy Chubays after the parliamentary hearings: How do you explain the entirely good-natured and calm tone of the speeches today?

"Perhaps it is a good thing that today's discussion was not at the level of hysterics and hurling of vouchers," Anatoliy Borisevich replied.

Incidentally, a whole series of speeches, perhaps not very shrill or flashy, was substantive and contained rather significant new elements. There were speakers today who are participating responsibly in privatization. What, for example, does the check fund indicate? "We want to be actively engaged in long-term investments and we cannot do that for one reason or another." Look, a structure has emerged, which demands that deputies make it possible to engage in long-term investments—it is an entirely new situation in the real Russian market. There were plenty of moments of this kind. Let us pray that the second part of the discussion is as substantive and without any hysterics...

"And are they to be expected, do you think?"

"Well, those who were preparing certain recommendations have not gone away. I think they will come to the next hearings revitalized. I am well aware that serious preparations are still going on. Nothing happened, because the atmosphere in the hall was wrong. Certain young deputies simply lacked the experience of political intrigues. I expect there will be statements by political parties about what I have lovingly stashed away in my

own briefcase, about my responsibility for the disintegration of Russia, and so on. Let us draw any conclusions about how aggressive parliament is when the hearings are over..."

Glazyev: Economic Situation Not Reassuring

PM1804092194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Apr 94 First Edition p 3

[Unattributed report: "Forecast Not Reassuring"]

[Text] Sergey Glazyev, chairman of the State Duma committee for Economic Policy, described the present state of affairs in the Russian economy as "not very reassuring." In the parliamentarian's opinion, the problem of the state budget has now been advanced to the fore. The real economic policy which exists in concealed form in the draft does not help the country to emerge from the economic crisis and gives no guarantees against a descent into hyperinflation and a catastrophic slump in production.

Duma Debates 'Partnership for Peace'

PM1504191594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Apr 94 pp 1, 3

[Vladimir Mikheyev report: "Duma Deputies Would Willingly Disband NATO, But Are Forced To Accept 'Partnership' for Time Being"]

[Text] After four-hour hearings devoted to NATO's "Partnership for Peace" program, State Duma deputies decided that if they are to join NATO it will be on their terms. The role of a second-rate supernumerary waiting in the lobby to find out what decisions are being made at NATO Headquarters is not a suitable one for Russia.

The supporters of joining NATO on the terms formulated by the Americans in the "Partnership for Peace" concept proceed on the basis that the alternative is unacceptable. Fourteen states, including Ukraine, Moldavia [Moldova], and Georgia, have already signed applications to join NATO. If Russia misses its chance, they say, it will find itself internationally isolated.

As events in Sarajevo and Gorazde have shown, there is currently "no real coordination" and the NATO powers are "staking a claim to a monopoly on decisionmaking." We do not need that kind of "partnership," Yuriy Ushakov, director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's All-European Cooperation Department, said. He argued that it would be easier to combat this evil from within the Atlantic bloc rather than on the outside.

A similar line of thinking was followed by Major General Pavel Zolotarev, a Defense Ministry representative, who believes that it is impossible to expect the NATO bloc to disband itself, "even if we try to flex our muscles"; therefore it would be better for Russia to take part in the process of moving our former enemies "away from containment through deterrence [sderzhivaniye cherez ustrasheniye] to containment through partnership."

If we remain on the sidelines, Russia will be "distanced from the integration processes in Europe" and play into the hands of those circles who would like to "turn NATO into a closed anti-Russian bloc." The general referred to the lack of a mechanism for military cooperation with the Atlantic alliance, but reassured those who are afraid of NATO attempting to "discipline" Russia or, even more, of our soldiers being placed under the command of U.S. or German generals.

The most determined opponents' objections were summarized in an anonymous note issued to everyone, which stated that "Partnership for Peace" had been dreamed up to "preserve and further strengthen (expand) NATO, to establish the bloc's strategic influence in East Europe, and to move its front lines right up to the borders of the Commonwealth states and, in particular, Russia." The debate discussed the correlation between the commitments which Russia would have to make to NATO and the commitments it has already made under the Treaty on Collective Security within the CIS.

The military threat to Russia currently comes not from the West but from within the Commonwealth, which dictates our regional security priorities, General Leonid Ivashov of the CIS Military Cooperation Coordination Headquarters, stated.

Weightier arguments "against" were voiced by Lieutenant General Aleksandr Tymko, chief of the Border Guards Main Staff, who viewed the problem in a purely professional light—NATO "will be striving to reach Russia's borders."

In his opinion, the growing Estonian territorial claims on Russia, Lithuania's disagreement with the line of the border, the increasing activeness of extremist groupings, and the development of special subdivisions in the Baltic countries should be taken into account. It cannot be ruled out that "partnership" with the West European powers would destroy the CIS countries' collective security system.

Gennadiy Yampolskiy, leader of the State Committee for the Defense Industry, recalled that military production in the country had fallen five-fold, and Russian arms exports amount to just over $2 billion—15 times less than the U.S. figure.

There is keener competition on the arms markets, lobbyist methods are being used against Russian producers, the Missile Technology Control Regime is being exploited, and Western firms are trying to win orders from East European countries for the modernization of old Soviet weapons.

Konstantin Zatulin, chairman of the CIS Affairs Committee and the organizer of the debates, considered it

necessary to note that the timing for joining the "Partnership for Peace" program had been badly chosen; the fears of being isolated take no account of the Eurasian nature of the Russian Federation—something which he called "political color blindness." We are not being allowed access to the new "distribution of labor" in arms markets, which makes us suspect our partners of "putting out a contract to kill" the Russian military-industrial complex.

Judging by the results of the hearings, the Duma will make the following recommendations—that there should be no rush to join NATO in this currently undefined way; that, as a minimum, talks should be held on the entire range of military-technical aspects of cooperation; and that a decree on the compulsory ratification of the act governing Russia's accession to the "Partnership for Peace" program be adopted as a federal law.

Subsequently, as Zatulin put it, work will have to be done to ensure that "all the relics of the 'cold war' are consigned to the archives—that is, not only the Warsaw Pact, but NATO as well."

Loophole Found To Challenge Yeltsin

MK1504120094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Apr 94 p 2

[Ivan Rodin report in the "Parliament" column: "A Big Gap Has Been Found in the Constitution. Through It, the Duma Can Contest the President's Exclusive Powers To Pursue Domestic and Foreign Policy"]

[Text] Yesterday the State Duma Council received two draft laws initiated by the Agrarian Party faction, namely by the Duma's Legislation Committee Chairman Vladimir Isakov. The laws have long titles: The former, On Suspending Participation by the Russian Federation in Enforcing International Sanctions Imposed Against the Union Republic of Yugoslavia; and the second, On Compulsory Ratification of the Act of Accession to the Partnership for Peace Program. Mr. Isakov first announced the existence of these documents at the Duma's 13 April session, which discussed the chamber's statement on the bombing of Bosnia.

Vladimir Isakov told the deputies at the time that their motives for issuing statements only because the Constitution refers the definition of the main aspects of foreign policy exclusively to the president's jurisdiction are erroneous because Article 3 of the Constitution says this is done in accordance with federal laws. Isakov called on his colleagues to adopt such laws.

The first draft law provides for Russia's suspending its participation in sanctions against the Union Republic of Yugoslavia in view of their one-sided application, recommending to the government to restore all relations with Serbia and Montenegro. The title of the second bill speaks for itself and furthermore establishes that prior to ratification of Russia's accession to Partnership for Peace it does not impose any obligations on Russia.

Therefore Vladimir Isakov, who reads the constitution carefully, unlike those who drafted it in their time, has scored a first success by finding a loophole which, if need be, can be enlarged. He does not, however, regard the corresponding article in the Constitution as a hole because, according to him, "it is big enough for even a truck to pass through."

The fact is that the main domestic policy lines formulated by the president are also pursued in accordance with federal laws. To be sure, laws adopted by the Duma may be vetoed by both the Federation Council and the president but if there is really a strong desire, two-thirds of the votes can always be secured to override this veto. To a very large extent this applies to the Partnership for Peace ratification bill: An overwhelming majority of the Duma factions are demanding that an act on accession to this program be submitted for approval.

Isakov Confident on Endorsement

LD1704141394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1230 GMT 17 Apr 94

[Text] The Chairman of the State Duma's committee on legislation and legal reform Vladimir Isakov (Agrarian faction) told Interfax the Duma would be sure to endorse a draft bill on the compulsory ratification of plans to enter NATO's Partnership for Peace [PFP] program.

Last week Isakov, who authored the draft bill, found that the Russian constitution allowed the State Duma to map out Russia's line in international affairs. Earlier, only the president was privileged to plan foreign policy moves. On behalf of his faction Isakov came out with two foreign policy bills—on the ratification of plans to join the Partnership for Peace program and on the lifting of economic sanctions against Serbia.

Isakov told Interfax that practically no factions and groups in the State Duma opposed the idea of compulsory ratification. Even the Russia's Choice faction, which integrated, among others, Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, saw the pro's and contra's of the Russian integration into the program and was willing to play the NATO card in its own interests.

The endorsement of a foreign policy bill would set a serious precedent and that was what put the reformist factions Russia's Choice and Yabloko on the alert. Nonetheless, Isakov hoped the national interests would prevail.

So far, Isakov said, the President and his Foreign Minister saw the parliament's role in foreign policy-making as insignificant. The bombing raid on Serb positions in Bosnia, rather than the political lineup in Russia, motivated the decision to put off plans to join the NATO program. Isakov saw the attack on Serb positions as a blow on Yeltsin, Kozyrev and the whole of Russia.

Faction Leaders View Civil Accord Memorandum

PM1804091194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Apr 94 First Edition p 2

[Reports by Yevgeniy Skukin under general heading: "We Discuss Draft Agreement on Civil Accord"]

[Text] We Are For Moncloa Plan; Vladimir Goman, Deputy Chairman of the Committee for Federation Affairs in Regional Policy

Our deputies' group, "new regional policy," was the initiator in elaborating a memorandum on accord in the State Duma. We were the first to come out with the proposal to adopt this document, similar to the Moncloa pact signed in Spain in 1977, to ensure that a consolidating basis appears in the work of the State Duma. If the sides which sign this document are sincere in their desire to lead society to civil accord and peace in order to implement the economic reforms which have been outlined then in that case the document on civil accord will play its part. But if a dual and triple philosophy is in operation and we say one thing, think another, and do a third, then the document will be doomed.

I Support It Although.... Sergey Yushenkov, chairman of the State Duma Defense Committee

The actual idea of civil accord agreements with the existence of a Constitution seems dubious to me. But on the other hand an agreement after the amnesty is indeed essential. The statements and actions of those who have been amnestied show that they by no means assess the pardon as an act of well intentioned conciliation and the path toward accord and they openly oppose the existing system, the president, and other structures of legal power. In this connection we must of course prevent conflicts in society. But how to do this? The memorandum on accord adopted by the Duma is in my view a hollow thing. It contains no real mechanisms of implementation except the primitive appeal to live in harmony—there is nothing there. The president's draft provides for a mechanism of implementation—not only organs for coordinating actions but also certain sanctions.

When the "Russia's Choice" faction said that such agreements are impossible right now, we were by no means opposing the idea there should be an agreement. We were simply saying that the tasks which can be resolved should be resolved. I am skeptical about such documents and at the same time I understand the need for such steps from the viewpoint of creating an atmosphere of conciliation in society.

Presidential Pension Bill Shelved

MK1604084094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 16 Apr 94 p 2

[Nika Stark report in the "Social Security Guarantees for the President" column: "Secure Old Age Does Not Threaten Boris Yeltsin Yet"]

[Text] While, according to the official version, the Russian president is full of vigor and has no intention of retiring, a strange document has appeared in the Duma concerning the head of state's material insurance: both during the period of his state service and after. This draft law—On State Social Security Guarantees for the Russian Federation President—which, according to Duma Deputy Chairman Mikhail Mityukov, originated within the Legislation Committee, was however assessed by this committee members as untimely.

The committee session also examined another draft law of similar content: On State Guarantees to Top Officials. Both bills were "promoted" at the Duma Council session by deputy speaker Mikhail Mityukov who nonetheless denied authorship. At the same time, Mityukov believes that such a law has a right to exist because at the present moment, according to him, the president's salary is approximately 400,000 rubles, that is, below the deputies'. The draft establishes it at a level of triple a ministerial salary.

Vladimir Isakov, chairman of the Legislation Committee, assessed the bill as a possible provocation. In his opinion, a wide discussion of the "juridically absolutely illiterate document" can lead to the Duma's being charged with trying to bring Boris Yeltsin's retirement closer (the draft envisions the president's pension at 80 percent of his monthly monetary allowance).

To avoid a scandal, the committee, after considering the drafts, decided to wait and watch the reaction of factions and parliamentary committees. The committee's decision may have also been influenced by the fact that the anonymous law was supposed to take effect from 1 April 1994.

New Draft Labor Code Presented

MK1604115094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 16 Apr 94 p 2

[Gleb Cherkasov report under the "Discussion" rubric: "Draft Russian Federation Labor Code Unveiled to Public. No One Likes It"]

[Text] A "roundtable" to discuss a draft Russian Federation Labor Code took place at the Trade and Industry Chamber yesterday. Taking part in the meeting were Federal Assembly deputies, officials of the president's and government's staffs, representatives of business circles and trade unions, as well as law scientists.

The draft code was presented by Sergey Panin, chief of the Ministry of Labor legal administration. According to Mr. Panin, the drafters tried to take into account all suggestions and critical amendments that had come in after the fundamentals of the Labor Code had been discussed. At the present stage the draft law consists of three parts: the Principles of the Russian Federation Labor Legislation; Minimum State Guarantees of Russian Federation Citizens' Labor Rights; and Protection of Workers' Labor Rights.

In accordance with the text of the draft, "the main objective of state policy in the sphere of socio-labor relations is the provision for every able-bodied person of conditions making it possible for him to maintain the necessary living standard by his work." The code incorporates the principle of delimitation of powers between the central bodies and the power structures of Federation components in the field of regulation of socio-labor relations, outlines the fundamental rights and duties of the employee and the employer, and envisions mechanisms for the resolution of labor conflicts. Mr. Panin deemed it necessary to point to the fact that an "appreciable lowering" of the level of social guarantees compared to the previous legislation indicated in the text of the draft does not signify their real lowering, while this only makes the social protection mechanism more specific and streamlined.

At the same time, participants in the discussion subjected the draft to sharp and largely scathing criticism, pointing out its inconsistency and unconstructiveness. A degree of summing up was done by Valeriy Rastorguyev, spokesman for the Federation Council social policy committee, who pointed to the fact that in its present shape the Russian Federation Labor Code had small chances of passing through both chambers of the Federation Assembly.

Deputies Polled on Government Leaders

PM1804110594

[Editorial Report] Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 16 April 1994 carries on page 2 under the headline "Off With Their Heads If Duma Had Its Way! This Is Confirmed by Poll of Russian Deputies" an unattributed report on an opinion poll in which the "Opinion" service asked State Duma deputies: "Would it be better for X to resign or continue to perform his duties?" The report gives the following results in percentages, noting that the missing percentages were "don't knows":

	Resign	Continue
P. Grachev	58.8	28.4
A. Kozyrev	57.4	35.4
V. Chernomyrdin	35.8	51.8
V. Gerashchenko	44.6	45.1
B. Yeltsin	47.0	47.0
V. Yerin	66.8	22.3
A. Chubays	55.6	36.7

Regional Affairs

Lobov Advises Petersburg Mayor on Use of Soldiers

MK1604120094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 16 Apr 94 p 3

[Maria Bogdanova report: "Anatoliy Sobchak Will Command Troops—"Administration Chiefs Will Become Governors General"]

[Text] A response has been received to a letter by St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak asking the president to grant him emergency powers to fight crime. Security Council Secretary Oleg Lobov has advised the mayor that his wish to use army units to combat crime does not contradict Russian military doctrine.

Oleg Lobov's letter makes it clear that a presidential edict is pending which will grant troop control functions to all regional administration chiefs, equal to Anatoliy Sobchak's. In fact, this is nothing new in Russia's history: In the past, governors were not obliged to ask the emperor's permission to use troops. As is known from school textbooks, however, the army has successfully acted against mutineers and strikers but failed to catch Vladimir Dubrovskiy. Observers fear that 18-year old law enforcers on city streets can themselves fall victim to criminal gangs hunting for firearms.

As for the military's being used to reinforce large police operations, here one can apparently count only on fire support. Yet automatic rifle fire in the streets, far from calming the city, is fraught with inadvertent casualties. On the whole, it is obvious that the real effect from using the army to fight crime will be minimal.

This naturally suggests that the incumbent governors, just like their predecessors, will be able to use the army most effectively only to control demonstrators, pickets, and strikers. There is actually nothing terrible about this provided such actions are unauthorized or violate the voters' normal life. Oleg Lobov's letter, however, says that the draft edict provides for "legal foundations for using military units by the executive bodies of Russian Federation components to resolve separate tasks of combating crime and maintaining public order." Meanwhile, given the Russian governors' varying political complexions, it is likely that each of them will have his own assessment of the situation: One may deem dangerous a public rally by library workers in support of the democrats; another, by pensioners advocating a return to socialism. Moreover, expanded troop control powers make administration chiefs even more independent. Amid the unabated separatist trends of some regional leaders, this also looks rather dubious.

Karelia: Parliament Head Elected Head of Government

LD1704210394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2041 GMT 17 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Zlobin]

[Text] Petrozavodsk April 17 TASS—Viktor Stepanov, chairman of the local parliament in Russia's northwestern Republic of Karelia, was elected on Sunday head of the republic's executive branch, according to preliminary results of elections to Karelia's new power structures. Local observers believe that the post of head of government to be occupied by Stepanov is very similar to that of president as for its powers. Elections were also

held to a new two-chamber local parliament, the Legislative Assembly. The parliament is to consist of 61 lawmakers. Apart from this, residents in Karelia's cities, towns and districts voted for candidates to local governing bodies.

At the moment, election officials are counting votes at polling stations. According to preliminary information, the average turnout across the republic made up slightly over 40 per cent, while only 35 per cent are required for elections to be valid.

Foreign observers of Vermont, as well as representatives of various parties and movements said the polls were well-organized. No irregularities were reported.

New Moscow Criminal Police Head on Crime Code

MK1504120094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 15 Apr 94 p 1

[Lyudmila Pivovarova report: "New Moscow Criminal Investigation Administration Chief Urges Criminal Code Be Tightened"]

[Text] Vasiliy Kuptsov has been appointed the new chief of the Moscow Criminal Investigations Administration. Mr. Kuptsov has said in his first brief interview that the country's Criminal Code is outdated and still rooted in socialism, whereas society has long been trying to adopt a capitalist way of life. The new Moscow Criminal Investigation Administration chief is certain that many provisions of the Criminal Code should be tightened and that crime should be combated not by one single agency, but by "the entire community," while his subordinates "are ready to combat crime and to defend the law."

Kaliningrad To Conduct Talks With Lithuania

WS1504191694 Tallinn BNS in English 1317 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Kaliningrad, Russia, Apr 15, BNS—Yuri Matochkin, head of the Kaliningrad region's administration, may soon be given full-scale authorizations to hold talks with Lithuania on Russia's behalf. At a press conference in Kaliningrad, Matochkin said such authorizations were promised at his meeting with Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin in Moscow this week.

Commenting on relations with Lithuania, Matochkin said Russia introduces "strict requirements" for Lithuania this year. He noted, however, that Russia's policy may be milder if Lithuania treats Kaliningrad in a more favorable way. In his words, the region already made its move with respect to Lithuania. Matochkin said "further advancement" and a more favorable trade status for Lithuania in the greater Russia will be possible only then. Matochkin said this year the region will focus on the development of its relations with Scandinavian and Baltic countries.

Discussing a scheduled visit to Kaliningrad April 19 by the German finance minister, Matochkin said the visit was arranged on the initiative of the German side. "We will not ask anything from Germans, we will only suggest," he said. "As regards credits, we already have three foreign credit lines for 50, 8 and 10 million dollars," but he declined to specify any potential creditors.

Kaliningraders Haunted by 'Germanization'

PM1504102794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Apr 94 p 3

[Boris Vinogradov report: "Germans Move to Kaliningrad"]

[Text] The Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs is receiving letters from Germany, whose authors describe themselves as the heirs and descendants of Germans living pre-1945 on the territory of Eastern Prussia, now Kaliningrad Oblast. They want to know if lost property can be reclaimed, and if so, then on what terms.

Smolensk Square is leaving the messages unanswered, but the Germans' interest in the given theme is becoming increasingly ardent as a treaty between Kaliningrad and Moscow is under preparation in the depths of the Russian Parliament. It is expected that it will be a treaty like the one recently concluded by the center with Kazan.

On this score, parliamentarians hold two points of view: Some are in favor of bolstering the enclave's independence; others fear that it will drift too far into the ocean of autonomy. Under Boris Yeltsin's edict, the oblast has existed under the regime of a free economic zone for over a year already, attracting attention not only from the children and grandchildren of Prussian barons.

In February, at a session of the European Parliament in Strasbourg, a resolution was adopted within the context of which Kaliningrad was accorded a special place in relations between Russia and the European Community. Magdalene Hoff, chairman of the Commission for Relations with the CIS, having visited Kaliningrad recently, put forward the idea of transforming it into an autonomous territorial unit and, ultimately, into a fourth independent Baltic state. The question of international monitoring of the oblast and the creation of a kind of condominium is being examined by way of one option.

The resolution's authors are insisting on the question's inclusion on the agenda of the talks on Russia's membership in the Council of Europe. In a conversation with European Parliament Speaker Egon Klepsch, a German, Andrey Kozyrev expressed displeasure in connection with the document's appearance and indicated that he views it as an attempt to intervene in domestic affairs.

Germany vows fidelity to the treaties with Russia, and says that it is not thinking about recovering property. However, the specter of "Germanization" haunts the imaginations of those Russians in Kaliningrad who are

prey to feeling "cut off from the family." The national patriots are exploiting the vague sense of uncertainty to their own political ends.

In terms of volume of investments in the oblast's economy, the FRG has far outstripped all foreign investors, taking second place behind Poland in respect of the number of joint ventures. The government in Bonn allocates finance, equipment, and construction materials to Germans moving to Kaliningrad in far greater quantities than to Germans in the Volga Region or Siberia. Incidentally, in a Russian Government decree on aid to refugees and persons forcibly resettled from the CIS, there is no mention at all of Kaliningrad among other Russian cities, as if the road there has already been closed to them. To these ends, the oblast does not receive any subsidies from the center. But Germans go there willingly. There are already around 15,000 of them there. Sponsors from Germany are helping them to buy land and put down roots.

A German-language newspaper entitled KOENIGSBURG EXPRESS is available in the city. The firm "Rossbahn" is bulding a highway to Berlin. By the end of this year, the 40-kilometer section to the Polish Border will be complete. And there is also a boom in "nostalgia" tourism for Germans who lived in Koenigsburg before 1945. From the border, tourists are conveyed by an old steam locomotive. The cars and compartments are done out in "retro" style. The current spring-summer season promises to be busy.

Environmental Problems at Chita-46 Base

OW1504124694 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel and Orbita Networks in Russian 1845 GMT 13 Apr 94

[N. Prokofyeva video report from Chita; from the "Utro" program]

[Text] [Prokofyeva] We have become wiser now and we know that if a number is attached to the name of a city it means it is a closed facility of military significance. We are in Chita-46, the home of missile forces. It was here that some of the missiles were destroyed in the presence of U.S. observers. How many remain? Naturally we do not have an answer to this question, but of course the most modern ones, the latest generation remain. Here in the forest one of the missiles was stored in a special silo. We also do not know where the remaining ones are stored today.

Strange incompatible things seem to coexist in our lives today. Right here in the forest you can also find the hothouses where the military and their families grow vegetables and potatoes to survive. If previously, towns of this sort had a special status and received special supplies, now this is no longer true, and wages are being delayed here just like everywhere else. One can probably get used to anything, even to the fact that your neighbors are missiles with nuclear warheads. Nevertheless, people want guarantees of their safety and of their children. This is understandable.

[Begin recording] [Prokofyeva] What safety guarantees are there?

[V.A. Kornauk, head of the town's administration] Safety guarantees lie in the reliability of our weapons, the work of high-class specialists, and the fact that work is carried out in strict accordance with instructions and by people who know their job. Any danger to the surrounding population, as I know and understand it, is excluded. [end recording]

[Prokofyeva] However physicians have their own opinion on this score. Facilities of this sort were always under the control of the Third Main Administration of the Ministry of Health which dealt with professionals. Neither medical services nor rural, rayon, or city physicians had access to their information. This was the reason for numerous tragedies around such places as Semipalatinsk, Chelyabinsk, Novaya Zemlya, and other similar places, and there are more of them in Russia than we know.

[Begin recording] [Prokofyeva] Aleksey Yakovlevich, so you feel the radiation situation is a real problem?

[A. Ya. Miloserdov, chief state medical physician of Chita Oblast] The first domestic uranium was mined in our oblast and an underground nuclear explosion was carried out in our oblast in the past. Two military districts operate in our oblast with all the subsequent consequences, and according to our data about 220 natural radioactive anomalies have been established in our oblast. Scientists of the Siberian branch of the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences worked here recently and they found that the people of Baley city, for example, have considerable depressed health reserves. In particular abnormalities are common as well as problems with cancer and immune deficiencies. If you compare immunology charts of people who live in the Semipalatinsk test range region with those here, the local ones are much worse. This is why together with the Committee for Ecology and the oblast administration we have formed a program of urgent measures to normalize the radiation situation. This program has passed its first expert examination in the Ministry of Ecology and it has been mostly approved. We are now completing it and will present it to the expert commission for adoption. This should give us the necessary funds. I think questions of rehabilitation of ill people in these regions will also be addressed. In particular, we must very seriously and comprehensively work out a plan for the rehabilitation of children from these places. [end recording]

Radioactive Contamination in Tomsk Area

LD1604155994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1251 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Text] The radioactive situation in the Tomsk region, where the Siberian chemical plant is situated, is very

complex; several territories are contaminated with Plutonium-239 and 240 as a result of numerous discharges from this enterprise, Marina Khotuleva, expert of the Radioecological Research Center of the Social-ecological union, declared to Interfax.

In her words, contamination of territories located nearby the Siberian chemical plant in Tomsk-7 exceeds the background contamination several times, in some places it is 3000 becquerels per sq.meter. "Discharges of radioactive water from the plant into the Tom' river have resulted in its contamination with radionuclides Cobalt-60, Zinc-65, Manganese-54," said Khotuleva.

As she said, the Radioecological Research Center conducted an independent investigation of the consequences of the accident at the Siberian chemical plant which occurred on April 6, 1993 and found out that the territory was additionally contaminated with a short life cycle radionuclides, Ruthenium-103, Niobium-95, and Cerium-144.

Ecologists are concerned over the fact that liquid radioactive wastes are being pumped into the underground water layers for storage for a long time already. As Khotuleva declared, a total of 40 Mn cubic meters of liquid wastes, including those which contain plutonium have been pumped under the ground since early fifties till now. "Nobody can rule out possibility that these radioactive materials can appear in reservoirs and in water supply systems intended for drinking," said she.

Second Round of Ossetian-Ingush Talks Ends

LD1504195894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1830 GMT 15 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz April 15 TASS—The two-day second round of North Ossetian-Ingush summit negotiations ended in Nalchik today after discussing a draft agreement on principles, measures and time to implement the Russian president's decree "On Procedure of Return of Refugees and Forced Migrants to Places of Their Permanent Residence in Northern Ossetia and Ingushetia".

The sides have discussed the document's preamble and the first article. The Ossetian side suggested to have the following wording of the first article "The parties to the agreement confirm the status of the Prigorodny region as a territory of the North Ossetian Republic in accordance with a decree of the Russian president of December 13, 1993, and voice their refusal from any territorial claims on each other and a third party".

In the opinion of the Ingush side, the Prigorodny region belongs to Ingushetia as ethnic Ingushes populated the area before deportation.

A break in negotiations has been announced. The date of the next meeting in Nalchik will be announced later. The North Ossetian and Ingush working groups and experts in Vladikavkaz and Nazran will continue to elaborate articles of the draft agreement.

N. Ossetia Ready for Talks

LD1604212194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2032 GMT 16 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz April 17 TASS—"A way to accord between the peoples of North Ossetia and Ingushetia is hard, but we must move towards it," North Ossetia President Akhsarbek Galazov said. Addressing members of North Ossetia government and parliament leaders in Vladikavkaz on Saturday, Galazov spoke about the results of the second round of talks between the presidents and official delegations of North Ossetia and Ingushetia in Nalchik, capital of neighbouring Kabardino-Balkar Republic.

Galazov said the talks were difficult and centered on the draft agreement on the principles, measures and terms of the implementation of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's decree establishing the procedure for returning refugees and displaced persons to North Ossetia and Ingushetia.

Disagreements over who should control the disputed Prigorodny district were the "stumbling block" at the talks. North Ossetia claims the district is its integral part, while Ingushetia insists that the district belongs to it because it was inhabited by Ingushes before they were deported in 1944.

Galazov stressed that "the question of border redrawing in the northern Caucasus must be removed from the agenda because territorial claims may lead to a new tragedy in Russia's south."

The two republics will resume talks after April 25 when the Federation Council, the upper house of Russia's new parliament, holds debates on the situation in the region and ways to stabilise it.

The North Ossetian leader noted that the sides have reached "progress in normalising relations between the peoples of the two republics and dispelled pessimistic forecasts that the dialogue in Nalchik would end in a deadlock." "The leadership of North Ossetia is ready to carry out the decree of the Russian president," he said.

Talks Lessen Tensions

LD1704102494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1003 GMT 17 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz April 17 TASS—Russian troops loyal to the temporary administration have begun a large-scale operation, removing mines on the North Ossetian territory where a state of emergency remains in

effect. Lieutenant-General Vladimir Kulakov, commander of the Vladikavkaz military garrison, told ITAR-TASS that field engineers have been instructed to draw a chart of mine fields within a week and check the safety of economic facilities, transport thoroughfares and gas pipelines.

Several incidents were reported in the Prigorodny region, where agricultural machinery and several agricultural workers exploded on mines planted by terrorists. Military sources say that the situation in North Ossetia where a state of emergency was extended until May 31, remains rather complex, but kept under control by Russian peace-keeping forces and local law enforcement bodies.

Local observers believe that a second round of talks held in Nalchik by North Ossetian President Akhsarbek Galazov and Ingush President Ruslan Aushev gave a certain impetus, helping to relieve tension in the Prigorodny region.

Local observers believe that a discussion of problems of stabilisation in the region expected to be held by the Russian Federation Council and the Russian Security Council in the context of the Russian president's decree on the return of refugees will help to disentangle a difficult knot of international problems.

Akhsarbek Galazov met with commander of a special Caucasian border guard district, Lieutenant-General Viktor Zemtsov, the press service of the North Ossetian president reported on Sunday. During the meeting the sides discussed a number of problems connected with reinforcing Russia's southern borders. The talks were attended by North and South Ossetian government officials who expressed concern about the fact that the introduction of the network of border-check points on the Transcaucasian road will remove a "transparent border", which will impede integration processes between the two republics in the area of science, economy and culture.

Yeltsin Edict on Consultations

LD1604114694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1026 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow, 16 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed an edict on Friday instructing the Russian Government to hold consultations with representatives of the state authorities and all the political movements of the Chechen Republic to find a way out of the existing sociopolitical situation.

On the basis of these consultations, a draft treaty will be drawn up on demarcating areas of jurisdiction between the federal state authorities and the Chechen authorities and on a mutual delegating of powers.

Chechnya Prepares for Consultation

LD1704164194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1342 GMT 17 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[Text] Groznyy April 17 TASS—Chechnya praised the Russian leadership for seeking a peaceful solution to the social and political crisis in the North Caucasian republic. Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev told TASS on Sunday that his analysts were thoroughly studying the decree by Russian President Boris Yeltsin, which instructs the Russian Government to hold necessary consultations with the Chechen side. The republic's government will gather in an extraordinary meeting tonight to make an official return statement by the Chechen leadership.

The analysis of the current situation in Chechnya gives shows that the republican authorities are likely to search for a mutually acceptable solution to the Chechen problem [sentence as received]. Talks may stumble over demands that Chechnya recognize itself a subject of the Russian Federation, as well as over Russia's repeated appeals to forces in opposition to President Dudayev.

Chechen Opposition Leader Calls for Accord

LD1704173694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1648 GMT 17 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[Text] Groznyy April 17 TASS—Yaragi Mamodayev, head of the Chechen Government of People's Confidence which is in opposition to the republic's current authorities, called upon the leaders of all political forces and movements to achieve national conciliation with an aim to work out a single position at the upcoming talks with Russia.

Commenting on the decree by President Boris Yeltsin, instructing the Russian Government to resume consultations with the Chechen side in order to overcome the present social and political crisis, the Chechen opposition leader said on Sunday: "This document, confirming the commitment by the Russian leadership to a political settlement of our differences, gives a historical chance to the Chechen people. But under the current confrontation within Chechen society, we cannot seize this chance and take a civilized path of building our statehood. Those who do not understand this or consciously oppose the process of national reconciliation are taking an anti-popular stand".

Mamodayev said his government of people's confidence believes that Russia's attempts to contact not only with Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev but also with his political opponents threatened to mount political confrontation in the republic and complicate the fragile negotiating process. For this reason, we urge all our compatriots not to divide themselves into Dudayev's

supporters and opponents but to subordinate their personal or corporate ambitions to the national interests in order to pull the long-suffering Chechen Republic out of the general crisis, the leader emphasised.

Mamodayev is convinced that none of the political movements or groups can reflect the will of the whole people. With this in view, we suggest convening a Congress of the Chechen People in the near future and work out a single attitude towards relations between Russia and Chechnya, he said in conclusion.

Chechnya's Dudayev Assesses Russian Government

LD1504172694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1350 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Boris Yeltsin is the sole and last stronghold of legality in Russia but he might be removed from power soon, Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev is reported saying at the state government's meeting Thursday. Dudayev thought that what he described as "certain elite circles in the Russian leadership" might make next May the decisive time for Russia.

Dudayev said that the Russian leadership consisted of factions, each playing its own game, and that his government felt this as it tried to have talks on a Russian-Chechen treaty. He added that some Russian politicos went as far as negotiating with the Chechen opposition. "It would be logical if we responded by making contacts with those who oppose the Russian leaders but we do not do so for ethical reasons," Dudayev said.

Meanwhile, an informed source in the Chechen leadership told Interfax that Dudayev was under pressure to discontinue the Russo-Chechen talks until an authority emerged in Russia which would have the situation under its full control.

Yeltsin Edict on Construction of Ingush Capital

LD1504192194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1848 GMT 15 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow April 15 TASS—A decree of Russian President Boris Yeltsin on construction of the Ingush capital was signed here today. Follows the text of the decree:

"On Construction of the Capital of the Republic of Ingushetia.

"In order to assist the Ingush people in construction of the capital of the Ingush republic as a major attribute of its forming statehood and in accordance with the Russian Constitution and the Russian law 'On Formation of the Ingush Republic Within the Russian Federation' I resolute:

"1. To support the initiative of republics, territories and regions of the Russian Federation on joint construction of the capital of the Ingush republic.
"2. To instruct the Russian Government to elaborate no later than June 1994 a set of arrangements to design and construct the capital of the Ingush Republic.
"3. This decree shall enter into force since the moment of its signing".

Abkhazia Urges Georgians To Lay Down Arms

LD1504152494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1249 GMT 15 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Irina Shchegoleva and Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Sochi April 15 TASS—The government of Abkhazia has called on the Georgian armed groups, operating in the upper part of the Kodor Gorge, to stop hostilities and lay down arms. The Abkhazian side, with the participation of U.N. inspectors, guarantees the lives and safety of the Georgian groups withdrawn from the area. Otherwise, the government of Abkhazia will take measures to neutralise "the armed gangs", says a statement released by the Abkhazian government today.

ITAR-TASS has learned from officials of the press service of the Abkhazian Supreme Soviet that this statement was released due to the recently increased activity of Georgian armed gangs in the Kodor Gorge and in some villages of the Gali district. Abkhazian sources report on mortar attacks on the village of Lata and raids of armed gangs on the village of Ganakhleba, Gali district, which claimed the lives of four men. Several people were abducted and their whereabouts are unknown. The Abkhazian side believes that such provocations are a violation of the Moscow agreements on political measures to settle the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict, that they seriously destabilise the situation and are intended to torpedo the peaceful negotiations and preparations for the repatriation of refugees.

The Abkhazian government has announced its readiness to ensure the safe evacuation of these groups from the territory of the republic if they laid down their arms.

In light of the latest developments, the parliament of the Abkhazian Republic requested the Russian president and the State Duma on Friday not to ratify the Russo-Georgian treaty until the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict is fully settled.

Yeltsin Appoints Representative for Chuvash

LD1604113694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1046 GMT 16 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow April 16 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin has appointed Mikhail Timofeyev presidential representative in the Republic of Chuvashia. A decree to this effect was signed on Friday.

NATO, Baltic Fleet Officials on Cooperation

WS1804081594 Kaliningrad YANTARNIY KRAY in Russian 30 Mar 94 p 2

[Report by V. Kostomarov: "NATO General Harry Johnson: 'Like Most Soldiers, I Am Happily Married'"]

[Excerpt] Kaliningrad Oblast was the last stopover in the tour of Harry Johnson, commander in chief of NATO forces in the North European theater of war operations. Prior to that, he visited Moscow, St. Petersburg, and Severomorsk (Murmansk Oblast).

On the final day of his visit, the British general toured Baltiysk where he familiarized himself with the crews of the patrol boat "Nesokrushimiy" and the squadron torpedo boat "Nastoychiviy." On board the latter vessel, Harry Johnson and Vice Admiral Viktor Kravchenko, first Baltic Fleet deputy commander, who accompanied the general, answered journalists' questions.

[Journalist] You managed to spend very little time in the Baltic Fleet. Nevertheless, how do you assess the level of constructiveness in the talks with its command?

[Johnson] This is my first visit to the Baltic Fleet. However, my first meeting with Admiral Vladimir Yegorov, current Baltic Fleet commander, took place 18 months ago in St. Petersburg. In the presence of the press, I would like to express my gratitude for the sincere and extremely warm welcome that was given to me by the fleet command, Vice Admiral Kravchenko, its first deputy commander, and all officers who worked with our delegation. We had a good opportunity to visit two combat ships. We were favorably impressed with their equipment with the most up-to-date arms, and with its maintenance.

You have asked me about cooperation that the future has in store for us. Actually, this cooperation has already begun. This year, a Baltic Fleet ship will participate in joint NATO maneuvers under the coded name "Baltic Operation '94." During the visit, we conveyed the invitation to Baltic Fleet Commander Admiral Yegorov to attend the exercise of missile boats as an observer, which are scheduled for this year.

During our stay in Moscow and meetings with General Colonel Mikhail Kolesnikov, chief of the general staff of the Russian Armed Forces, and Admiral Feliks Gromov, commander in chief of the Russian Fleet, as well as with the Baltic Fleet command, we saw that their attitude toward our cooperation was highly favorable. Our current key goal is to work out the details of interaction under the circumstances of reduced finances, which is a pressing issue for both parties. It is these technical details that I, as well as the officers of my staff, are engaged in today. This is the key goal of our visit here.

Let me express my views as a soldier and commander in chief of NATO forces in Northern Europe. It is the naval forces that have a great potential for the development of our cooperation. Our aim is to turn the zones of the Baltic and North Seas into a region of true cooperation and interaction.

[Journalist] As you know, Russian Defense Minister General Pavel Grachev visited this area recently. He referred to the implementation of the idea about the creation of the so-called special defense region in Kaliningrad Oblast in the immediate future. You happen to be the first foreign guest after the defense minister's visit. Could you, as a military person, express your attitude toward this idea?

[Johnson] Unfortunately, I have no information about the decisions that Russian Defense Minister Grachev adopted here concerning the establishment of some special defense region in Kaliningrad. However, this oblast is part of Russia, and it is a matter of this country, its government and the defense ministry to introduce such a defense regime which they deem necessary. Even if I had some information, this is neither my business nor my right to discuss and comment on decisions adopted by the Russian Defense Ministry.

[Journalist] You just returned from a ship, the commander of which has said that the crew will shortly participate in the NATO exercise "Baltop '94." I would like to hear something from the two military leaders about the perspective of our cooperation.

[Johnson] I had a chance to tour a modern and well-equipped ship. It has made an impression on me. The crew and the commander are convinced of the ship's capacity to fulfill the set tasks. I believe that its level of equipment with up-to-date military facilities, guidance and navigation systems allows this ship to perform any tasks in such an operative group as the "Baltic Operation." This is a U.S. exercise, which, if we follow its development, is expanding its scale and becoming more complicated in terms of its tasks. I believe that the participation of Russian ships in this drill will serve for our closer military cooperation.

[Kravchenko] Any cooperation, particularly among the military, will bring only benefits. This year, our ships will visit several countries, including Finland, Belgium. and France. The question of whether our ships will go to the Kiel week is now being resolved. Here in Baltiysk, we also receive guests and ships from other countries. All these contacts lead to a better mutual understanding. The fact that a Russian ship is participating in a NATO exercise for the second time reflects the strengthening of this collaboration year by year. The time will come when several vessels rather than a single ship will take part in this enterprise.

[Journalist] We know the story of the establishment of NATO and the Warsaw Pact. The latter is already nonexistent. What is your opinion on the future of NATO?

[Johnson] The Warsaw Pact ceased to exist concurrently with the breakup of the Soviet Union. Contrary to this, the situation in NATO is slightly different. The European Union continues to exist. Moreover, the process of integration among these countries is expanding. At the same time, this leads to the development of NATO. This development is progressing along the line of defining its goals and tasks in accordance with the current situation. [passage omitted]

International Affairs

Sevastopol Officers Demand Dismissal of Russian Commander

LD1504112394 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 0930 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Sevastopol [no date as received]—The Sevastopol branch of the Ukraine Officers Union held a meeting on 14 April to voice a resolute protest against "the attempts by the Russian naval command and the Black Sea Fleet to further destabilize the situation and increase the confrontation with the armed forces of Ukraine." The adopted statement says that the media, spurred on by the Black Sea Fleet press center, are spreading slander about the so-called "Odessa incident." Facts show that the Black Sea Fleet command is constantly involving the officers and personnel of the fleet in various political actions and encouraging their active participation in anti-Ukrainian political parties and movements.

The meeting pointed out that Black Sea Fleet Commander Eduard Baltin is continuing to grossly violate the laws of Ukraine, and appealed to the presidents of Ukraine and Russia for his dismissal. They also urged everybody who valued peace to resist provocations by destructive forces.

Eight Russian Servicemen Families To Leave Odessa 21 Apr

LD1504182794 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] [No dateline as received]—Albi Shudrya, senior officer of the Ukrainian Naval Forces press center, told a UNIAN correspondent on 15 April that 42 naval officers and warrant officers of the former 318th division of the Black Sea Fleet conservation ships have by now taken the oath of allegiance to the people of Ukraine and got down to fulfilling their duties within the composition of the first brigade protecting the Odessa naval district. Out of the 136 families of servicemen, only eight decided to leave Odessa for the deployment sites of the Russian military units. "Those who expressed their wish to leave Odessa were yesterday offered to travel and transfer their luggage in separate births of the Slavutych ship," said Vice Admiral Volodymyr Bezkorovaynyy, the Ukrainian Naval Forces commander, during his conversation with the UNIAN correspondent. "However, these servicemen and their families did not wish to leave Odessa on board the Ukrainian ship. They were offered a cargo airplane AN-12, which will fly off for the town of Saki on 21 April, as agreed with the Russian servicemen."

Replying to a question on who the property of the Ukrainian Naval Forces, stolen from Odessa, was passed to, the vice admiral pointed out: "After the crew of the Cheleken had carried out the pirate voyage, the vessel, escorted by ships with marines on board, at first dropped its anchor in the area where the cargo could be inspected. However, the Black Sea Fleet command did not allow representatives of the procurator's office, customs, and border guards to board the Cheleken. On the next day, the vessel was stationed near other ships in a zone closed for any kind of inspections. On the third day, when only 15 pieces of cargo remained on board the Cheleken out of the 41 that had been taken away, the inspectors had nothing else to do but state that the criminal operation was a success.

Yeltsin, Kravchuk Agree To Share Black Sea Fleet

AU1504162394 Paris AFP in English 1613 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow, 15 April (AFP)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk signed a deal Friday [15 April] to share out the disputed Black Sea Fleet on a 50-50 basis.

But the agreement states Ukraine will use only between 15 percent and 20 percent of the fleet for its own purposes and will lease the remainder of its share to Russia, Ukrainian Defence Minister Vitaliy Radetsky said at a press conference.

Defense Ministry Said on 'Offensive' on Black Sea Fleet

LD1504170594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1639 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow 15 April—While Russian and Ukrainian leaders discuss the future of the Black Sea Fleet in Moscow, the Ukrainian Defence Ministry is on the offensive and is not daunted even by the use of force in its efforts to take over parts of the Black Sea Fleet. In doing so, Kiev is violating all the existing Russian-Ukrainian agreements on the fleet, the fleet's press centre told ITAR-TASS on Friday.

Today, a group of eight military personnel from the Ukrainian Navy, having gained the support of the Ukrainian presidential representative in Izmail, arrived at a brigade of river cutters. The Ukrainians were led by head of the western maritime defence region of the Ukrainian naval forces, Captain Dmitriy Ukrainets, according to the press centre.

The Ukrainians met with the command of the river unit and handed them the directive issued by the Ukrainian Defence Ministry on 10 April, which says the Black Sea Fleet unit is being disbanded, and the third naval defence brigade of the Ukrainian Navy is to be created on its base. The unit was given a new commander, Captain Yaroslav Fyodorshin.

The Ukrainian personnel appealed to the brigade's command to avoid the use of armed force. They promised to increase the pay of seamen who swear allegiance to

Ukraine. The Ukrainians announced that those who wanted to serve in the Russian Navy would be allowed to go to Russia.

The personnel of the river cutter unit were especially warned to preserve the brigade's military equipment and property, which the Ukrainian Navy representatives claim belongs to Ukraine.

Meanwhile, in Moscow, Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev told journalists on Friday that Russia has been providing all the money for the Black Sea Fleet since September 1993, which means that "the fleet is Russian even as concerns financing". There can be no talk about leasing parts of the fleet to Ukraine, the minister declared. Especially since, under current conditions, Ukraine's security in the Black Sea is being maintained at Russian expense. The Russian and Ukrainian delegations to the CIS summit meeting in Moscow are currently working on specific solutions to that problem.

Kiev Denies Black Sea Fleet Ships Port Access

MK1504093094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 15 Apr 94 p 1

[Report by Viktor Yadukha from Sevastopol under the "Conflict" rubric: "Black Sea Fleet Ships Denied Access to Ukrainian Ports. Admiral Baltin Does Not Want To Take Any Risky Steps"]

[Text] It has transpired from sources close to the Black Sea Fleet staff that a telegram from Ukrainian Defense Minister General Vitaliy Radetskyy to Admiral Eduard Baltin, Black Sea Fleet commander, was received on 15 April, in which the former categorically objects to the entry of Black Sea Fleet ships and vessels to the Ukrainian ports of Odessa, Izmail, Kherson, and Nikolayev. Meanwhile, the Black Sea Fleet command has been preparing ships for evacuating eight families of the 318th Division's servicemen who refused to take the oath of loyalty to Ukraine. When meeting with them, Vice Admiral Vladimir Beskaravaynyy, commander in chief of the Ukrainian Navy, who heads the naval field staff at the "Slavutich" cruiser in Odessa, proposed that the officers take an oath of allegiance to Ukraine and follow him on board "Slavutich." The commander of "Ilya Azarov," a ship blocked in the Odessa port, responded: "We will not go to an enemy ship; these people have robbed us. They will finish robbing us there."

In Odessa, the Black Sea Fleet's surveillance post has also been blocked. Black Sea Fleet staff officers point out that the Ukrainian Defense Ministry has made it clear by its actions that it is carrying out the functions of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet and its Foreign Ministry.

Currently, the 318th Division of mothballed ships includes three Black Sea Fleet ships, on which Ukrainian flags have already been hoisted. Black Sea Fleet Commander Adm. Baltin has decided not to take any steps to evacuate servicemen, because this may be interpreted by the Ukrainian side as a provocation.

Naval Forces Commander Views Black Sea Fleet Issues

LD1504215594 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 2005 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] [no dateline as received]—In an interview with a UNIAN correspondent on 15 April, Rear Admiral Oleksiy Ryzhenko, deputy commander of the Naval Forces of Ukraine, pointed out: "Practice shows that the Black Sea Fleet command is resorting to a show of strength ever more often. In particular, on the eve of the election of the president of Crimea, a large group of ships put to sea without any agreement with the authorities of Ukraine and Crimea and without them being aware of this. Yet another proof of this is the fact that they put to sea on a mass scale on 14-15 April, i.e. on the days when the Odessa incident had not yet been settled, when the issue of the Black Sea Fleet was to be considered at the meeting of the heads of state of CIS in Moscow."

In connection with this, the rear admiral believes that, proceeding from Ukrainian legislation and the norms of international law on the territorial supremacy of the law, it would be expedient that the Black Sea Fleet commander coordinate all issues related to the use of the training ground by the Black Sea Fleet forces with the commander of the Naval Forces of Ukraine.

The latter, in Ryzhenko's opinion, should also give his consent for the Black Sea Fleet ships and vessels under the St. Andrew flag and the state flag of the Russian Federation to enter and leave the territorial internal waters and ports of Ukraine. The redeployment of military units, movements of military detachments, and transfer of military cargo within the boundaries of Ukraine's territory must be carried out with the consent of the chief of the general staff of Ukraine's Armed Forces.

The rear admiral also believes that combat training grounds—both sea- and land-based—located within the limits of the state territory and in Ukraine's defined Black Sea territorial waters, must be subordinated to the Naval Forces of Ukraine, while it would be expedient to make Ukraine's Naval Forces aviation commander responsible for air traffic control on the territory of Crimea.

Alternative Ukrainian Black Sea Fleet Commanders Appointed

MK1604090094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 16 Apr 94 p 1

[Report by Konstantin Parishkura from Kiev under the general heading: "Ukraine Has Decided To Play War With the Black Sea Fleet. Meanwhile, Yeltsin and Kravchuk Have Decided To Split the Fleet"]

[Text] Meanwhile, on 15 April the press center of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry issued the following statement: "Vice Admiral Vladimir Beskorovaynyy, commander in chief of the Ukrainian Navy, has said that in

accordance with the Ukrainian Naval organization plan, the creation of the Western Sea Area under Captain First Rank Dmitriy Ukrainets continues. Today, commanders of Black Sea Fleet units in Izmail, Ochakov, and Nikolayev will be introduced to their Ukrainian counterparts so as to organize cooperation. Military formations, command and control agencies, and their staffs are being set up in advance so that they will grow into the situation in the areas and prepare for taking over ships after the problem of splitting the Black Sea Fleet is resolved. The newly created formations will be tasked with interfering in the activity of the existing Black Sea Fleet units. [as published]

Odessa Base Chief Says Kiev Plans To Seize Two More Units

MK1604085094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 16 Apr 94 p 1

[Report by Viktor Yadukha from Sevastopol under the "Neighbors" rubric with the general heading: "Ukraine Has Decided To Play War With the Black Sea Fleet. Meanwhile, Yeltsin and Kravchuk Have Decided To Split the Fleet"]

[Text] SEGODNYA correspondents at the Black Sea Fleet's press center have reported that on the morning of 15 April, 12 Black Sea Fleet ships left Sevastopol "to practice combat training missions. This is a planned departure, and it has no bearing on the events going on in Odessa," the official statement says.

Meanwhile, the Ukrainian Navy Command has offered its assistance in evacuating by air or by ship officers and warrant officers of the maintenance division ships seized in Odessa. The sailors declined the offer, saying that they do not trust people who have treated them like that, adding that they will wait for help from the Black Sea Fleet.

Captain Second Rank Aleksandr Zelenko, chief of staff of the Odessa division, who arrived in Sevastopol to report on the situation, has said that by the time of the attack, a total of 18 officers, 37 warrant officers, and 33 sailors were in the division. Of them, four officers and another 32 people —warrant officers and servicewomen—took the Ukrainian loyalty oath.

According to Captain Second Rank Zelenko, the Ukrainian servicemen plan to seize this way another two Black Sea Fleet units located in the northwestern part of the Black Sea—a ship division in Ochakov and a brigade of ships under construction and repair in Nikolayev. When asked what these people could do to defend themselves, the officer said: A serviceman has only one answer to weapons, which is weapons. In Aleksandr Zelenko's view, the paratrooper brigade whose 200 or so servicemen occupied his division is subordinated directly to the Ukrainian president and could do it only on his order. The officer thinks that the sailors in Ochakov and Nikolayev are also ready to use arms in case of a possible attack.

Your SEGODNYA correspondent has learned that before noon on 15 April, having secured the backing of the Ukrainian president's representative in Izmail, eight representatives of the Ukrainian Navy under Captain First Rank Dmitriy Ukrainets, chief of the Ukrainian Navy Water Area Protection's western sector, came to the premises of the Black Sea Fleet river boat brigade, which is deployed in the city. At the meeting with the boat brigade command, they read them the Ukrainian Defense Ministry's directive No. 115/1/0237 of 10 April 1994 on disbanding the river boat brigade and setting up the 3d brigade of the Ukrainian Navy Water Area Protection on its basis. The officers were introduced to the unit's new commander, Captain First Rank Yaroslav Fedorishin. All who would take a Ukraine oath of allegiance were promised a salary raise. According to reports from the Black Sea Fleet staff, having encountered stiff resistance on the part of the brigade's officers, the Ukrainian Navy representatives asked them not to use arms. What the boat brigade officers' response will be is anyone's guess.

Kravchuk on Agreement To Set Up Russian Naval Base

LD1604143094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1251 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Text] Within 10 days Ukrainian and Russian delegates are to submit to their heads of state a draft treaty on the division of the Black Sea Fleet. This was disclosed by Ukraine's President Leonid Kravchuk at a news-conference in Kiev last night upon his arrival from Moscow.

As he revealed, at a meeting with Russian President Boris Yeltsin on Friday agreement was reached to set up a Russian naval base in Ukraine. However, as Kravchuk emphasized, it will be "a base, rather than bases," and its site, in his words, will be chosen at state level bilateral talks.

The Ukrainian Foreign Minister Boris Tarasyuk, who attended the negotiations on the navy division, told newsmen that, in his opinion, such a base could be leased to Russia for up to five years.

Kravchuk stressed that before the lease treaty takes effect it must be ratified by Ukraine's parliament.

He argued that Ukraine claims 15-20 percent of the Black Sea Fleet's ships and recalled with reference to the Yalta accords that Ukraine would be entitled to one half of the fleet, if it were divided. However, as he remarked, Ukraine is ready to sell Russia its portion of the fleet, which, as he explained, Ukraine does not need to guarantee its defence potential.

He voiced displeasure with the Black Sea Navy Commander, Admiral Eduard Baltin. He said he would be prepared to revoke his approval of Baltin's appointment to the post of commander and would do so if "the

process of negotiations drags on." "If not, I will have nothing to do with the Russian Black Sea Fleet Commander," he said.

As he explained, on Friday the defence ministers of Ukraine and Russia were told to instruct the subordinate units to resolve all conflicts and abide by the achieved accords in their future actions. All conflicts similar to those in Odessa have been settled for good. This view is shared by the leaders of Ukraine and Russia alike, he declared.

He reaffirmed an invitation to Yeltsin to pay an official visit to Ukraine after the preparation of a comprehensive friendship and cooperation treaty.

He voiced hope that such an accord would be ready in the first half of 1994.

Another round of talks on the Black Sea Navy division was scheduled for 22 April in Moscow.

Kravchuk News Conference on Black Sea Fleet

LD1604212694 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1530 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Text] Kiev, 16 Apr—After returning from the Moscow meeting of CIS countries' heads of states and governments, Leonid Kravchuk, Ukraine's president, gave a news conference at the Kiev's Borispol airport.

[Begin recording] [Kravchuk] Black Sea Fleet problems were at the center of attention, but the meeting between the presidents of Ukraine and Russia, in which the prime ministers, foreign affairs ministers, and defense ministers of both states took part, was of a broader nature. The meeting took the form of a discussion of large scale problems. In particular, we agreed and instructed the foreign affairs ministers to prepare a wide-ranging treaty on friendship and cooperation between Ukraine and Russia. I officially invited the president of Russia to pay a state visit to Ukraine and he accepted this invitation.

Economic problems were discussed too, but the Black Sea Fleet issue was the central one. It has made our relations more acute and could make them more acute in the future. It seems to me that at this stage, we have adopted the only possible and sensible decision—we acknowledged that we should divide in accordance with the Yalta, Zavidovo, and Massandra meetings. That is, Ukraine takes its share of the fleet, and that part which it does not take, it gives away, sells, or transfers to Russia according to its value, which will be determined by the competent experts.

Toward the end, we clearly determined the parameters of what part of the fleet Ukraine is taking: as much as it can maintain and as much as its strategic concept and defense doctrine demand. We proceeded from our strategic aims—how many fighting ships and personnel in service afloat [plavsklad] we need. An instruction was issued that all the parameters connected with basing the Russian fleet in Ukraine be elaborated within 10 days. The Russian fleet's base will be determined not in general terms, but on universally acknowledged international principles, and this base will be leased accordingly on certain conditions, which are universally acknowledged in the world.

We came to the conclusion that we should clarify the Odessa incident, which could cause a chain reaction. The defense ministers of Ukraine and Russia were instructed to pass the directives of the two presidents to Eduard Baltin, commander of the Black Sea Fleet, and to Volodymyr Bezkorovaynyy, commander of Ukraine's Navy, so that they take all the necessary measures so as not to let those processes develop, which complicate or could complicate the situation at the current points where the fleet is based.

[Correspondent] Over 20 documents were signed at the Moscow sitting. Did Ukraine make any proposals or observations?

[Kravchuk] We signed all of the documents pertaining to the economic situation without exception. Now the issue of an associate or actual member of the association means not only closer economic integration, but that political integration will necessarily occur following it. Others are to be found corresponding to our level—an associate member. But now all are signing the same documents, and the same laws are in force for all. There is no need to make a tragedy of this. This is a process of formation. Europe was going towards a European union for 35 years. We cannot do in five years what Europe did in 35. The main thing is that the general tendency is going towards economic integration, and here Ukraine is not throwing anything out, but is going towards and will be going towards this integration, because this is an objective and natural process, which meets the interests of the people.

[Correspondent] Does the fact that the fleet will be divided so 80 percent goes to Russia and 20 percent to Ukraine correspond to reality? Will Russia's naval bases be on our territory, and if so then on what conditions and what will their status be?

[Kravchuk] I have already said that Ukraine will take for itself as many fighting ships and as much infrastructure as it needs to secure its military strategic aims in accordance with the military doctrine, which has been approved. According to our calculations, we need approximately 15-20 percent. We already have a part of our ships, and we have border guard vessels too. This is not about Russia's military bases, but about one military base for the Russian fleet. Ten days have been given so that the delegations, taking into account interests and possibilities, determine where this base will be located. This cannot be a subjective decision so that when we begin to implement it later, we see that it is not open to implementation. Everyone says that the Russian fleet's base should not be in Sevastopol. From patriotic considerations this does not cause any doubt. But let us look at the situation, which has now arisen. There is now a fleet,

and the greater part of this fleet will belong to Russia. Tens of officers and their families live in Sevastopol, their children are in kindergarten. Now they suddenly say, let us make it so that the Russian fleet leaves Sevastopol. This is possible, but we should say, as for example Germany says, that the Russian troops should leave Germany, and for that we give you German marks, build accommodation for you, and you resettle. But we can say (this will be approximately 120,000 people): You leave Sevastopol, move somewhere, we will not offer you flats, schools, or kindergartens. So what answer will these people give? That is, one should not adopt a decision while being guided only by emotions and desires. All the more so when it is not being adopted forever—a lease has a time-scale—and there is no need to dramatize the situation. This is politics, and the masses take part in politics, and in this case thousands of people make up the masses. And no one can disregard the interests of thousands of people.

[Correspondent] Information from various agencies exists that the CIS countries agreed to a special status for Russia regarding implementation of its peacemaking functions?

[Kravchuk] This issue was not discussed. The issue was discussed and a corresponding statement made about ending the war in Azerbaijan. The presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia made such statements. Ukraine signed it, too. The point is that the CIS countries took into consideration the presidents' statements that they will stop or will do everything necessary to stop the armed conflicts. Then one can begin talks with the participation of CIS countries' peacemaking forces and in the presence of CSCE or UN observers. There was no talk about granting Russia some kind of powers. It is about the peacemaking forces of the CIS, or more precisely, those countries, which come under the collective treaty.

[Correspondent] Your attitude to the person of Admiral Baltin, the Black Sea Fleet commander? Were issues of avoiding a possible conflict in the very near future discussed?

[Kravchuk] My attitude to the Black Sea Fleet commander after his latest action is a negative one. If we, for example, saw that the process of resolving the Black Sea situation was being delayed, I would make a specific proposal on the part of Ukraine and would recall my signature. But as I am convinced that we do not have the right to delay, then it will not concern me as president who will be the commander of the Russian fleet. That will then be Russia's affair. Therefore, I have refrained from making a corresponding statement up to now and from recalling my signature. With regard to settling the situation, the presidents of Russia and Ukraine instructed the defense ministers of both countries to give orders for settling all of the acute problems at all base positions and to begin resolving the problems.

[Correspondent] What amounts of compensation can Ukraine count on when the fleet is divided? When is the visit by Russia's president expected?

[Kravchuk] It still has to be calculated on defined principles how much the ships, which will be handed over to Russia, and the Russian fleet's basing [bazuvannya] will be worth. How much it comes to all together depends on how much will be offered. The Russian president's visit will become real when we have prepared the wide-ranging treaty on friendship and cooperation between Ukraine and Russia.

[Correspondent] As the economic union envisages that a fully-fledged member does not have the right to enter another economic union without permission, will it not be that permanent and fully-fledged members of the economic union will essentially be cut off from the European community?

[Kravchuk] There is a certain problematic situation for (?the country), but there is also the reality that one is still a long way from fully-fledged membership of the European Union. In my opinion, a union as a phenomenon in world politics is a temporary phenomenon, which leads to the division of the world into blocs, political groupings, and military interests. If one is to speak from a broad aspect, the problem is in integrating unions' bases. I think that society will realize this itself, and the CIS is uniting into a union because of this too. At present, we are not reaching beyond the level of all of our possibilities, which are within the framework of the CIS. One should live according to one's means.

With regard to dividing the Black Sea Fleet, 50 percent each way,—this has already been divided, we agreed to this both in Yalta and in Zavidovo. Now they are 50 percent of ours. I am not going to name precise figures. We take 400 ships (200 of ours and 200 Russian ones). This has already been divided. Of our 200, we need 20 percent, and those which we do not need, we sell to Russia according to the value in the appraisal, which will have been made.

[Correspondent] A political evaluation of the consequences of the elections in Ukraine has not been heard from you yet. A congress of the Ukrainian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs has taken place, where Leonid Kuchma was proposed as the candidate for president. Tomorrow Rukh will surely propose Vyacheslav Chornovil. What is your attitude to yourself as a future candidate for president?

[Kravchuk] I proceed from the fact that there is a law "On Elections of a President" and that people propose their candidacies in accordance with this law. This is the right of everyone and of those people who have proposed a candidate for president. This is a normal process. It is important for me that the president's status be clearly defined. One can elect a president with the current status too, that is elect a president as head of state and head of executive authority, which is noted in the Constitution. I understand that if elections of a president take place and

changes are not made to the constitution—and I do not think that this will be very easy for 338 deputies to do—that the president is only a head of state. Then the following collision will arise: At the same time as elections of a president, bodies of power are elected, the structure of which does not envisage a president with executive functions. That is, a president is elected as head of executive power, but the functions and possibilities for executing one's powers are taken away. As I understand it, the councils do not envisage a president with executive powers. A president could be elected who will not have anything or anyone to direct, but then in order to take away his executive powers again, the tug of war will begin again. He can ask for a referendum or the people will agree to leave him the functions of head of state and head of executive power, and if the people agree to this in a referendum, then it will be necessary to create presidential structures again. It will end where it began.

The main problem in elections of a parliament is the winning over of non-party deputies, who are 51 or 52 percent of those elected. Who will manage to get them on their side? It is too soon to make predictions at the moment, as not all deputies have been elected yet. [end recording]

Navy Commander: Formation of Western Naval Region Begins

LD1504162894 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Commander of Ukraine's Naval Forces, Vice Admiral Volodymyr Bezkorovaynyy, has reported that the formation of the Western naval region is under way. Today, Ukrainian commanders will be introduced to the commanders of the Black Sea Fleet units in Izmail, Ochakov, and Nikolayev with the aim of organizing interaction. The above formations, control bodies, and their headquarters are being set up in advance for them to grow into the situation and get ready for the acceptance of the ships after the Black Sea Fleet division issue is solved. The newly set up formations are not charged with the task of interfering in the activities of the existing naval units.

This news was circulated today by the Ukraine Defense Ministry press center via the TV and radio news agency Novyny.

Armed Forces Units in Crimea Placed on 'Full Combat Alert'

LD1504213594 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 2035 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Reports are coming in of new instances of arbitrary seizure of Black Sea Fleet property by the Ukrainian military.

According to river motorboat crews, a group of eight Ukrainian naval servicemen arrived in Izmail at 1300. They handed to the unit commander an order from the Ukrainian defense minister to the effect that the unit was disbanded and replaced by a third brigade to guard the Ukrainian naval military district.

Sources close to the Black Sea Fleet headquarters have learned that on 15 April, near the settlement of Perevalnaya, near Simferopol, one of the battalions of a mechanised division of the Ukrainian armed forces has been placed on full combat alert. Battalion personnel have been issued ammunition. Similar measures have been taken at an artillery unit of the same mechanised brigade. [passage omitted]

Swedish Citizen Expelled for Attempted 'Nuclear Terrorism'

LD1504191094 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] On 15 April Ukraine's Security Service expelled Swedish subject Erik Olaf Estenson, who was temporarily staying in Ukraine, beyond the borders of our state for intentions to carry out actions that can be qualified as international nuclear terrorism in relation to a foreign state. This has been reported by the Ukrainian Security Service press center.

Kravchuk Says Kiev To Take 'Active Part' in Economic Union

LD1504123694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1055 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk has said that Kiev will take an active part in a CIS economic union. In an interview with INTERFAX he said that he would sign documents on an associated membership.

Kravchuk believes that now the difference between full and associated membership in the economic union is only relative.

"I have looked through economic documents prepared for the Moscow CIS summit. We shall sign them. Like full members, we shall put our signatures under the documents on the economic cooperation among the CIS members," said Kravchuk.

Asked to express his attitude to the initiative by Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev on the creation of a Euro-Asian union, Kravchuk said that today the integration in such a scope, proposed by some politicians, following the example of the European Union, has no basis.

For a Euro-Asian union to work, conditions should be prepared gradually, said Kravchuk. It is no secret that it took European countries 35 years to form the European Union. The CIS has existed only several years and we did not yet form many mechanisms for the Commonwealth to work. There are also other problems which are not

solved, not for a lack of will. The conditions are not ripe for a Euro-Asian union, said Kravchuk.

Kravchuk said that he was not against the idea of a Euro-Asian union. He said he did not want the idea to materialize now, because, he believes, it would lead nowhere.

National Affairs

Officials Accuse Grachev of 'Deliberate Distortion'

AU1504185294 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 14 Apr 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Consultations on the Black Sea Fleet Continue"]

[Text] Ukraine's first deputy minister of defense and chief of the General Staff of Ukraine's Armed Forces A. Lopata and Ukraine's Deputy Minister of Defense I. Bizhan held a briefing for diplomats accredited in Ukraine on the incident that took place in Odessa between subdivisions of the Odessa Military District and the Black Sea Fleet. Lopata sent a telegram to the Russian Ministry of Defense in which he asked that the departure of the vessel the Cheleken from Odessa be halted until the situation is finally clarified. Ukrainian Minister of Defense V. Radetskyy tried to get in touch with P. Grachev, his counterpart in the Russian Federation. He sent Grachev a telegram in which the essence of the conflict and the position of the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense were explained. Grachev's reply revealed a total lack of knowledge of the circumstances and a deliberate distortion of facts. For example, in his telegram, Grachev referred to the Cheleken as a Russian vessel.

On the proposal by Ukraine's Ministry of Defense, on 12 April, consultations started between the Ministries of Defense of Ukraine and Russia and a search for ways to resolve the Black Sea Fleet problem. The delegation of the Russian Federation includes chief commander of the Naval Forces F. Gromov and Ambassador for Special Missions Yu. Dubinin. The Ukrainian delegation is headed by Minister of Foreign Affairs B. Tarasyuk. On the first day, the sides did not reach any agreement. On 13 April, the consultations continued in Sevastopol.

Kuchma Views Prospects for New Parliament

LD1504124794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1055 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] The President of the Ukrainian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs Leonid Kuchma told newsmen in Kiev Thursday that two ultra-radical forces had won strong representation in the national parliament. Speaking in the wake of the Union's fourth emergency congress, Kuchma referred to the nationalistic forces of the country's western provinces and the Communists and Socialists. He said Ukraine was following in the footsteps of Russia.

Now that forty-odd legislators had joined his Interregional Reform Bloc, Kuchma was confident the bloc would emerge as the centrist faction in the new parliament.

The centrist-oriented forces in parliament must stop what Kuchma described as a tug-of-war game between the Communists and nationalistically-minded radicals, and insure the formation of a new Cabinet on a professional, and not political, basis.

Even parliament must be denied the right to amend key economic legislation, or, said Kuchma, Ukraine's international image will be damaged beyond repair.

Pending new presidential elections the lawmakers should help President Kravchuk safeguard civic peace.

The Crimea had been and must be part of Ukraine. In the meantime, Kuchma said, Kiev was losing to Simferopol both politics- and economy-wise. But, he said, the Crimea would remain Ukrainian if the reforms and economy started working.

The policy of Ukrainization was as erroneous as that of Russification because, Kuchma said, one action always brings a reaction.

Unfortunately, Kuchma said, political consideratins always prevailed over economics, which provoked social cataclysms, in Ukraine.

According to INTERFAX-Ukraine, the top executives of a number of Ukrainian banks and industrial facilities are holding a working conference in Kiev on 15 April.

Crimean Security Service on Attempts at Politicization

LD1604003494 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 2005 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Simferopol— An appeal to the president and the people of Crimea was adopted at a meeting of the personnel of the Crimea Republic Security Service on 15 April. The document, in particular, expresses concern over the progress of events around this collective. "The latest developments prove that attempts are being made to shift the activity of the service from the legal sphere to political, in which we have no right to interfere," says the statement. "This is fraught with the disorganization of the operational and search activity under conditions of growing crime rates and increasing danger of the emergence of political terrorism."

Accusations to the effect that the Crimean Security Service "went over to Ukraine" are senseless, because no one questions the provision of the law "On Security Service of Crimea" which stipulates that it is a regional body of the Security Service of Ukraine. Such reproaches

evoke surprise, to say the least, because they are made also by "separate employees of the Crimean president's administration who are former executives of the former KGB. It is they who should be aware of the consequences of involving the special purpose law enforcement body in political confrontation better than anyone else."

Meshkov on Elections, Current Issues

WS1504133094 Kiev KIEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 9 Apr 94 p 4

["Exclusive" interview with Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov, by Larysa Troyan, on 30 March, place not given: "Political Pressure Will Be Neutralized by Political Resistance"]

[Excerpts] [Troyan] My first question is to warm you up: Do you like being president?

[Meshkov] That is some warm-up! Frankly speaking, I have had no time to think about it.

[Troyan] How would you comment on the results of the Ukrainian Supreme Council elections?

[Meshkov] Outright fascists in legislative seats are too dangerous for anybody. This is an extremely unfavorable situation for the Crimea.

[Troyan] Why did you appeal to the Crimeans not to vote for Ukrainian Supreme Council deputies and to take ballots home instead?

[Meshkov] This was an attempt to protect ourselves from the extreme forms of nationalism.

[Troyan] How would you assess the preliminary results of the Crimean legislative elections?

[Meshkov] The results denied the claims that at the presidential elections our electors, the citizens of the Republic of Crimea, voted against the former administration rather than for a concrete candidate and a concrete program. It has turned out that they voted for the "Russia" bloc.

[Troyan] Do you think that this stance is a kind of reproach, a challenge for the Ukrainian leadership, an overt orientation toward Russia, or something else?

[Meshkov] This was normal human reaction to the demonstration of extreme nationalist trends tolerated by the current Ukrainian leadership. Thus, the leadership has in a way become a promoter of nationalist policies. This was an attempt to abandon unwise economic and social policies. Besides, the Crimean people are part of the Russian nation.

[Troyan] How would you evaluate the results of the Crimean poll? I interpret these results in the following way: Crimeans have embarked on the road to unconditional autonomy. Am I not right?

[Meshkov] Crimeans cast their votes for having the right to be the masters of their own fates, to independently build normal and logical economic relations, and to determine the optimal variants of these relations. Over the last two years, economic here reform has been artificially blocked. Unwise tax and customs policies, as well as many other stupid things have been forced on us, although they are absolutely unacceptable for the Crimea. All these measures have been dictated by the ambitions of people with nationalist views.

[Troyan] Are you not expecting similar "forcing" on the side of Russia?

[Meshkov] I am not. We are speaking about maximizing the ability to pursue independent economic policies in cooperation with both Russia and Ukraine. This is not a drive toward separation, once characteristic of Ukraine in its relations with Russia. On the contrary, this is a desire to unify economies and enter the common economic space with Russia and republics like Kazakhstan, which are ready for such unification. The Crimean citizens are ready for this too, and this was confirmed by recent events. Our people are not driven by purely economic considerations. They also need a new kind of, let me put it this way, labor motivation. When unacceptable barriers are removed between Russia and Crimea, when there are no more customs houses and checkpoints favored only by inefficient officials, everybody will gain from this.

[Troyan] If I properly understand what you mean, the Crimea aims to float between Scylla and Charybdis of Russian and Ukrainian problems to achieve a breakthrough in economic reform.

[Meshkov] We have potential to carry out reform rapidly. We are not burdened with the gigantic mass of unresolved problems resting on Ukraine's shoulders. Neither do we have problems like those Russia has, given its vast territory and colossal economic structure.

[Troyan] Do you believe that the Crimea might become a kind of experimental project, a future model for the expeditious introduction of reform in both Russia and Ukraine?

[Meshkov] We do not aim to become a model, the so-called "five-year plan heroes," although we would have nothing against becoming "production leaders." I believe that we will have enough wisdom to choose the most optimal economic scheme, all the more so since we are not limited by any ideological or nationalist restrictions. The influence of the Communist Party in the Crimea, unlike Ukraine and Russia, is virtually minimal.

[Troyan] In other words, you believe that Crimeans are standing on the ground of sound pragmatism.

[Meshkov] Yes. I would say that Crimean mentality is rather individualistic due to the kind of life that we live. The Crimea has been a melting pot of various civilizations and cultures—this has always been accepted

without antagonism or hindrance. In other words, here we are dealing with a higher degree of self-respect, and thus respect toward other people.

[Troyan] Does this mean that your favorite book is Vasiliy Aksenov's "Island Crimea"?

[Meshkov, laughing] It is one of my favorites.

[Troyan] If this is no secret, what prompted your choice of Mr. Saburov for deputy prime minister? Was that age-long friendship or political sympathy?

[Meshkov] It is still too early to talk about this. There are a lot of arguments in favor of Saburov's candidacy....

[Troyan] How long have you known him?

[Meshkov, disregarding the question] ....and I accepted these arguments. [passage omitted]

[Troyan] Who will form your new Cabinet of Ministers? Will Saburov be granted powers for this?

[Meshkov] Of course he will. Saburov and I shared responsibility for the future of economic reform in the Crimea, and now we are going to share responsibility for the forming of the government.

[Troyan] In an interview conducted on 27 March, Leonid Kravchuk said: "The Crimea will remain in Ukraine regardless of a further scenario, given that both the Crimea receives drinking water and supplies for sowing from Ukraine." How would you comment on that?

[Meshkov] President Kravchuk probably meant something else, but this phrase could be understood as follows: If the Crimea remains in Ukraine, it will have both drinking water and seeds for sowing; if it chooses to live without Ukraine, Ukraine will not supply either water or seeds. I do not like the ambiguity of this statement, because in this case the problem can be posed differently: If Ukraine's attitude toward the Crimea is normal, Ukraine will receive both gas from Turkmenistan and electric power from Russia. The very Dnieper water then, so to say, will be supplied by Russia. I would not like to talk this way; I do not want to accept this unfriendly tone. There would be no unfriendly attitude if we spoke about our share in Ukraine's national wealth. This [Ukraine's] stance is yet more proof that the Crimea is alien to Ukraine.

[Troyan] According to President Kravchuk, Ukraine is ready to delegate vast economic powers to the Crimea. Here is another quote from Leonid Kravchuk's interview: "Rumors about the introduction of any other currency are absurd. However, we should remove political issues from the Crimean agenda."

[Meshkov] We would be more than happy to remove political issues from the agenda, provided that nobody meddles in our economy. We have no other intentions.

[Troyan] Are you going to create a free economic zone?

[Meshkov] We are going to create a normal economy and planning to provide it with appropriate legal acts. Our only request is: Do not interrupt us; do not force on us those laws that were adopted to satisfy somebody's whims and have nothing in common with economic principles.

If we are permitted we will take care of the Crimean economy without anybody's help. If somebody attempts to exert pressure and reap political dividends from letting us overstep some foolish law; if somebody attempts to use the formal discrepancy between our and Ukrainian normative acts for political pressure, in this case we will react by means of political methods. Political pressure will be neutralized by political resistance.

[Troyan] Speaking about political pressure you only mean one side, namely Kiev. Does this mean that you totally dismiss similar actions on the side of Moscow?

[Meshkov] I do not expect such actions from the Russian side. It would be blasphemy if somebody told us that we would receive gasoline and lumber only as long as we stay with Russia.

[Troyan] Thus, your relations with Russia are developing in a more favorable manner?

[Meshkov] No. But the Russian leader will never utter words similar to President Kravchuk's.

[Troyan] The press has reported your interest in Mr. Yavlinskiy. What prompted it?

[Meshkov] In light of my professional skills (economic issues were treated very seriously at Moscow State University and I have acquired a taste for economy), I believe that I can rather impartially evaluate Mr. Yavlinskiy's propensities and the correctness and logic of his suggestions. That is the source of my deep respect for this talented economist.

[Troyan] Does this mean that Yavlinskiy will take part in drafting the economic model of Crimean reform?

[Meshkov] I would be extremely grateful to Mr. Yavlinskiy for any kind of assistance. By the way, I want to point out that East European economists are ready to render us similar aid. According to preliminary reports Lady Thatcher is also ready to do so, although she has not confirmed this yet.

[Troyan] Are you really determined to ensure simultaneous circulation of both rubles and karbovantsi? There are also rumors about dollars and German marks.

[Meshkov] We will be happy to accept yen, guldens, and pounds too.

[Troyan] What do your economic advisers say about this? What do they predict?

[Meshkov] They predict an inflow of capital.

[Troyan] Do Crimeans believe that there will be a stream of foreign investments?

[Meshkov] No. There is no euphoria or anticipation of streams of investments. We are ready to provide possibilities to earn money in the Crimea on the basis of mutual advantage and sober calculation. Our citizens will grant assistance. I do not mean exploitation of people. I want to underline that we are devoid of all kinds of ideological dogmas. Participation in developing the Crimean economy is profitable.[passage omitted]

[Troyan] Do you guarantee that there will be no corruption in your executive bodies?

[Meshkov] I do!

[Troyan] How are going to fight this evil phenomenon? As far as I know, humankind has not invented an efficient medicine to cure this disease.

[Meshkov] There is medicine, and a very strong one. It will be applied. [passage omitted]

[Troyan] Why do you tend to avoid speaking about Mr. Zhirinovskiy?

[Meshkov] First of all, because he is my university mate; there exists an unwritten Moscow University brotherhood of a special kind. Secondly, this is undoubtedly a talented person. A certain newspaper reported that I admire Mr. Zhirinovskiy. There is no admiration; however, I developed respect for his political talent regardless of anybody's views. [passage omitted]

Further Runoff Election Results

Odessa Oblast

944K1093A Lvov POST-INFORM in Ukrainian 12 Apr 94 p 2

["Election Results in Odessa Oblast"]

[Text] On 10 April, in Bilhorod-Dnistrovskyy Electoral District [E.D.] No. 304, the election was won by Vasyl Honchar, a collective farm chairman; in Kotovsk E.D. No. 306, Petro Melnyk (CPU), also a collective farm chairman, defeated the candidate of the Party of Democratic Rebirth of Ukraine [PDVU]; in Morskyy E.D. No. 307, Vadym Plotkin, the general director of the Ukrzovnishprom State Enterprise (Kiev), defeated Anatoliy Baranovskyy, head of the independent trade union of the Illichivsk port; in Bilayivka E.D. No. 308, Dmytro Popov, head of the rayon state administration, defeated the chairman of the board of directors of the rayon consumer union; in Bolhrad E.D. No. 309, Viktor Nemyrovskyy, the CPU candidate, defeated a department chief at the rayon hospital; in Ivanivka E.D. No. 311, Lt. Gen. Volodymyr Hovorun, chief of the oblast's Administration of Internal Affairs, defeated a collective farm chairman; in Kiliya E.D. No. 312, Ruslan Bodelan, the chairman of the oblast council (former first secretary of the oblast committee of the CPU), defeated Dmytro Todorov, the representative of the Bulgarian community; in Kominternivske E.D. No. 313, Valeriy Tytenko, a collective farm chairman (chairman of the oblast committee of the Peasants' Party of Ukraine [SelPU]), defeated the deputy head of the Berezivka Rayon State Administration; in Savran E.D. No. 314, Vyacheslav Sokyrchak (CPU) defeated an advisor to the International Economic Relations organization; in Tarutyne E.D. No. 315, Dmytro Tsushko (SelPU), a state farm director, defeated a collective farm chairman; in Tatarbunary E.D. No. 316, Hryhoriy Rychahov, a member of the Social Democratic Party of Ukraine [SDPU], defeated the deputy chairman of the oblast state administration.

Zhytomyr Oblast

944K1093B Lvov POST-INFORM in Ukrainian 12 Apr 94 p 2

["Election Results in Novohrad-Volynskyy"]

[Text] On 10 April, in the last electoral district of Zhytomyr Oblast, the Novohrad-Volynskyy E.D. No. 158, where the second round of voting did not take place on 3 April, P. Horbatyuk, a collective farm chairman, was elected people's deputy of Ukraine, defeating V. Veselovskyy, a physician with no party affiliation.

Luhansk Oblast

944K1093C Lvov POST-INFORM in Ukrainian 12 Apr 94 pp 2-3

["Election Results in Luhansk Oblast"]

[Text] On 10 April, in the second round of elections to the Supreme Council of Ukraine in Luhansk Oblast, in Artemivskyy E.D. No. 235, People's Deputy A. Yahoferov defeated V. Afanasyev, a representative of the CPU; in Vatutinskyy E.D. No. 236, where two CPU members ran against each other, the seat was won by P. Stepanov; in Zhovtnevyy E.D. No. 237, V. Ilyushyn, a CPU member, defeated an independent candidate; in Kamyanobridskyy E.D. No. 238, O. Borzykh, the incumbent deputy to the Supreme Council of Ukraine, defeated a Communist; in Leninskyy E.D. No. 239, V. Kolomiyets, the director of the Suverenna Ukrayina [Sovereign Ukraine] Joint Venture, defeated a Communist; in Alchevskyy E.D. No. 240, S. Hmyrya, a Communist, defeated an independent candidate; in Bryanka E.D. No. 242, where both candidates were Communists, the seat was won by S. Finchenko; in Lysychansk E.D. No. 245, Ye. Annyenkov, a Communist, defeated a Socialist; in Pervomaysk E.D. No. 246, Yu. Kryzskyy, a representative of the CPU, defeated an independent candidate; in Rovenky E.D. No. 247, V. Kocherha, a Communist, defeated V. Puhachov, an associate of the Institute of Economy; in Siverskyy Donetsk E.D. No. 250, H. Deynehin, the director of the Heat and Power Station, defeated the candidate representing the Interregional Reform Bloc [MBR] and Rukh; in Stakhanovsk E.D. No. 251, where both candidates were Communists,

the seat was won by M. Churupa; in Antratsyt E.D. No. 252, where both candidates were Communists and deputies to the old Supreme Council of Ukraine, the seat was won by V. Bondarenko; in Lutuhyne E.D. No. 254, S. Aksyonenko, a Communist, defeated the chief of the administration of internal affairs; in Svatove E.D. No. 256, People's Deputy of Ukraine O. Stashenko, a Communist, defeated a collective farm chairman; in Slovyanoserbsk E.D. [no No. given], [no name given] defeated a miner; in Stanychno-Luhanske E.D. No. 258, V. Ulanov, a Communist, defeated A. Makukhin ("Don Cossacks").

No deputy was elected in Rubizhne E.D. No. 248 [because neither candidate received the qualifying number of votes].

Vinnytsya Oblast

944K1093D Lvov POST-INFORM in Ukrainian 12 Apr 94 p 3

["Election Results in Vinnytsya Oblast"]

[Text] On 10 April, in Vinnytsya's Staromiskyy E.D. No. 47, Kvyatkovskyy, a member of the Democratic Party of Ukraine [DemPU], defeated a CPU member to be elected people's deputy of Ukraine; in Mohyliv-Podilskyy E.D. No. 51, Deputy Agriculture Minister Mykhaylo Parasunko defeated the Ukraine Bloc candidate; in Khmilnyk E.D. No. 52, Bryauzov, the director of the oil base, defeated a democratic candidate from Kiev; in Bar E.D. No. 53, the winner in the contest between two collective farm chairman was Volodymyr Yarovenko; in Haysyn E.D. No. 56, Vasyl Lantukh, a collective farm chairman, defeated Balan, the democratically-oriented editor of the *Podillya* newspaper; in Kozyatyn E.D. No. 57, Nedvyha, a worker (democratically-oriented), defeated the Rukh candidate; in Nemyriv E.D. No. 58, Volodymyr Stratevych, senior scientific associate of the Institute of State and Law of the Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, defeated an official of the Security Service of Ukraine; in Pohrebyshche E.D. No. 59, Volodymyr Budkevych (Ukraine Bloc, Rukh), dean of the department of international law at Kiev University, defeated Anatoliy Ben, special correspondent of the newspaper *Holos Ukrayiny*; in Tulchyn E.D. No. 61, the seat was won by Smirnov, a CPU member; in Sharhorod E.D. No. 62, Oleksandr Stoyan, the head of the Federation of Trade Unions of Ukraine, defeated a collective farm chairman; in Yampil E.D. No. 63, Kostyantyn Piskunovskyy, deputy to the former Supreme Council of Ukraine representing the "Party of Power," defeated Vasyl Kizka, correspondent of the newspaper *Nezavisimost*.

Runoff elections will be held in the remaining six electoral districts.

Odessa

944K1093E Lvov POST-INFORM in Ukrainian 12 Apr 94 p 4

["Election Results in Odessa"]

[Text] In Odessa's Zhovtnevyy E.D. No. 294, Eduard Hurvits, the billionaire chairman of the Zhovtnevyy District Council, defeated his long-time opponent Oleksiy Kostusyev, the head of the local Privatization Committee and leader of the Odessa Civic Forum.

In Illichivskyy E.D. No. 295, Serhiy Drahomyretskyy, secretary of the oblast committee of the CPU, defeated Vitaliy Dubchenko, chairman of the oblast trade union council; in Kyyivskyy E.D. No. 296, former Procurator General of Ukraine Viktor Shyshkin defeated Volodymyr Pylypenko, cochairman of the Union of Communists of Odessa Oblast; in Pivnichnyy E.D. No. 298, Valentyn Symonenko, presidential counsellor, defeated Volodymyr Kurinnyy, the well-known journalist from the *Yug* newspaper; in [no name given] E.D. No. 299, the seat was won by Yu. Karmazin; in Suvorovskyy E.D. No. 300, the seat was won by Pavlo Kudyukin, the president of the Blasko Joint-Stock Shipping Company; in Tayirovskyy E.D. No. 301, Valeriy Yevdokymov, the president of the Odessa Association of Lawyers, defeated V. Bayev, the director of the Transal Joint Venture.

Runoff elections will be held in the remaining districts.

Kiev

944K1093F Lvov POST-INFORM in Ukrainian 12 Apr 94 p 5

["Election Results in Kiev"]

[Text] The winners in the three electoral districts of Kiev where people's deputies of Ukraine were elected on 10 April are: in Radyanskyy E.D. No. 16—Myroslav Horbatyuk, the Rukh candidate; in Svyatoshynskyy E.D. No. 18—Ivan Zayets (Rukh), a deputy to the old Supreme Council of Ukraine (he defeated a CPU member); in Chervonoarmiyskyy E.D. No. 23—Environmental Protection Minister Yuriy Kostenko, a Rukh member (he defeated Semen Yufa, chairman of the Merkuriy Cooperative Society).

No deputies were elected in five other districts [because neither candidate obtained the qualifying number of votes], and the elections in the remaining districts were invalid [because voter turnout was lower than required by law].

Kiev Oblast

944K1093G Lvov POST-INFORM in Ukrainian 12 Apr 94 p 5

["Election Results in Kiev Oblast"]

[Text] On 10 April, in Kiev Oblast's Brovary E.D. No. 209, the seat was won by Novikov, a businessman who

ran as an independent candidate; in Vasylkiv E.D. No. 210, Deputy Agriculture Minister Zasukha defeated a CPU member; in Fastiv E.D. No. 213, the contest was won by Vitaliy Shevchenko, the candidate of the Ukrainian Republican Party [URP] (also supported by Rukh); in Baryshivka E.D. No. 214, Nedziyev, a collective farm chairman, defeated the head of the rayon state administration; in Kyyivo-Svyatoshynskyy E.D. No. 219, the winner was Yevhen Zhovnyak, the Rukh candidate; in Makariv E.D. No. 220, Roman Bezsmertnyy, the RP candidate, defeated the head of the rayon state administration; in Obukhiv E.D. No. 222, Volodymyr Kulinych, the Rukh candidate, defeated Sukhyy, a deputy to the old Supreme Council of Ukraine.

Runoff elections will be held in the rest of the oblast's districts.

Kherson Oblast

944K1093H Lvov POST-INFORM in Ukrainian 12 Apr 94 pp 5-6

["Election Results in Kherson Oblast"]

[Text] On 10 April, in Kherson's Dniprovskyy E.D. No. 394, the election was won by Oleksandr Illyashkevych, the MBR candidate (he defeated a member of the Socialist Party of Ukraine [SPU]); in Komsomolskyy E.D. No. 395, Serhiy Kyrychenko, an independent candidate, defeated a Communist; in Suvorovskyy E.D. No. 396, Hryhoriy Nayda, a member of the CPU, defeated the Rukh candidate; in Nova Kakhovka E.D. No. 398, Anatoliy Bezuhlyy, a Communist, also defeated a Rukh member; in Velyka Lepetykha E.D. No. 399, the seat was won by Andriy Snihach, a member of the CPU; in Velyka Oleksandrivka E.D. No. 400, the election was won by Serhiy Dovhan, a member of SelPU; in Hola Prystan E.D. No. 401, Yuriy Slasten defeated a CPU member; in Ivanivka E.D. No. 402, Stanislav Nikolayenko, a Socialist, defeated a member of the Liberal Party of Ukraine [LPU]; in Chaplynka E.D. No. 403, the seat was won by Kateryna Samilyk (CPU); in Tsyurupynsk E.D. No. 404, the winner was Oleksandr Mayevskyy, a Communist.

Presidential Edict Appoints New Deputy Defense Minister

AU1504123194 Kiev DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA in Ukrainian 14 Apr 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "The Minister of Defense Has a New Deputy"]

[Text] The Ukrainian presidential edict appointed Colonel General Vasyl Tymofiyovych Sabkov as Ukraine's deputy minister of defense. He is also commander of Ukraine's Armed Forces Ground Troops commander. Previously, Vasyl Tymofiyovych headed the Ciscarpathian Military District.

Meshkov Issues Decrees Introducing 'Open Economy' in Crimea

WS1504132994 Kiev KIEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 14 Apr 94 p 1

[Report by Irina Titova: "There Is a New Regime in the Crimea. Open Economy."]

[Text] Some sensational information was disclosed yesterday at the Ukrainian National Entrepreneurship Assembly session. Oleksandr Dudko, chairman of the Crimean Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, presented three decrees signed by Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov, all of which bore the date of signing, registration numbers, and, as it was put, still-wet ink. Practically, this means that the Crimea has entered a new economic era, something that industrialists and entrepreneurs have been trying to obtain from the government for several long months. The documents signed by Yuriy Meshkov implemented the 23 June decree of Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, "On Open Economic Regime in the Territory of the Crimean Republic."

Kravchuk Views Economic Reforms, Introduction of Hryvnya

WS1504163694 Kiev KIEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 12 Apr 94 p 4

[Comments by Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk edited by Nikolay Zakrevskiy: "Leonid Kravchuk: 'I Support the Idea That Land With Facilities Be Traded'"]

[Text] A president's word is not a decree yet, and even not a request for action. Leonid Kravchuk's position, however, as well as his viewpoint eventually have an impact on decisions and resolutions we adopt. Therefore, there is a great interest in Leonid Kravchuk's statements and comments, primarily, with the media.

This time, an unofficial meeting with our country's leader has been held at the House of Cinema at the initiative of the "Market Reform" press club affiliated to the Union of Ukrainian Journalists Kiev branch. Here are certain opinions of the president:

On the Current Government...

I cannot say that I am ashamed of Yukhym Zvyahilskyy's government, because, despite the whole complexity of the situation, the first steps toward stabilization have just been taken. We have started to earn hard currency to pay for energy resources. Additionally, preparations for the monetary reform and other transformations have already begun. The government must not be blamed now. Every government does what it can. The next government will do the same in a better and a different manner. I am convinced of this. Taking into account the situation on the eve of the parliamentary elections, we considered it inexpedient to change the government for just six months.

On Economic Federalization...

I support greater economic freedom for the regions in such areas as collecting and spending revenues, budget relations, and dividing and administrating property. This requires appropriate sources of revenues, which would be in line with the law. My decree on granting powers to four oblasts confirmed this viewpoint. To avoid contradictions, however, these powers should be amended by laws. The question of full federalization of the country is, primarily, objectively unachievable; second, it would obstruct reforms and even threaten our country's existence. The issue of federalization is thus far premature. Although I do not rule out the possibility that it can be addressed in the future, it should be based on elaborated mechanisms of economic independence and perfection of political institutions.

For example, I have met with miners. They are ready for independent management. In such a case, however, a problem arises before them and the state. To grant greater or full independence means to halt subsidies. If the government stops subsidizing the coal industry, coal prices will increase considerably, since the conditions of coal mining in Donbass are extremely complex. Higher prices for coal will trigger an increase in all prices. These problems cannot be resolved at one time and taking into account only one factor. In Ireland, which I had an opportunity to visit, the process of closing certain mines lasted 10-12 years, in order to find new workplaces and create social conditions. We cannot but subsidize miners, pay them wages, or give other branches depending on miners such as metallurgy or chemical industry the opportunity to develop. It is now very hard to radically change the situation.

On Private Capital...

If we do not have private capital, we can forget about the market economy. A civilized market without private property, capital, or financial and banking organizations is impossible. All the talk about the state regulating or predicting consequences is only talk. One can talk and act, but one can also hamper business by talking. I support more decisive reforms. I would like the Supreme Council to adopt a resolution according to which land with facilities could be traded. However, when I issued the decree on selling uncompleted constructions with land, they adopted an amendment canceling the decree. Until the parliament, the Executive Branch, and local administrations receive clear-cut decisions regarding this issue, we will not be able to avoid mistakes and swindles in economic policy.

On Western Aid...

The $700-million aid granted by the U.S. Congress is absolutely not connected with our budget and its deficit; nor even with our movement toward the market economy. These funds are connected with special assistance in disarmament. Regarding IMF loans for economic reforms, they stick to a firm stance—show us your budget and economic programs. Those who grant loans want to know where the money will be directed and whether it will be returned. Will the money be spent on wages or on a new Volvo? In the United States, I was told openly: Show us your laws regarding investments. Who will act as a guarantor of the loans? In what way are you forming your market?

On Introducing the Hryvnya...

I believe that an operation such as the monetary reform must not be secret. This decision should be understandable to all people and carried out openly in all aspects concerning citizens and their banking accounts, enterprises, company staffs, and property. The mechanism should be worked out in detail and promulgated. Of course, not everybody will be happy. Such things do not happen in the world. But, we cannot allow a situation similar to the one that occurred before: People get up in the morning; all stores are closed; and they are told that there will be a new currency. I, as the president, will never allow this to happen, since this would mean nationwide turmoil. Reforms should be for the people, not for certain individuals in secret offices. The problem, however, lies not here, but in a stabilizing fund. When we manage to reach an agreement on budget issues and obtain a stabilizing loan from the IMF, we will be on the verge of solving the problem of introducing the hryvnya.

Preparation for Miner Joblessness Needed

944K1092A Donetsk DONBASS in Russian 9 Apr 94 pp 1-2

[Article by Yevgeniy Vyatkin, candidate of technical sciences: "So That We Would Not Need Bast Sandals..."]

[Text] In the author's opinion, we have to seriously prepare ourselves for unemployment in the coal industry.

"The Coal Industry Is in Its Death Throes," was the sad title of M. Yermakov's article, published in DONBASS on 5 January 1994. It describes disproportions in the prices for coal and materials needed for its production. That the miners' dissatisfaction with wages, shortage of materials and spare parts results in both a lower coal production and a lack of discipline, sloppiness. That mines need subsidies, without which they will not survive. But at the same time, says the author, we need to increase labor productivity and cut the labor force.

The question of needing to cut the labor force is not new. It is also linked with another issue—closing the mines with poor production indicators. However, no cardinal measures have yet been taken in this direction. Year by year, this changes for the worse the indicators of the sector's overall operation. The past year of 1993 is not an exception—production of coal and labor productivity fell by more than 13 percent, while the size of the labor force remained practically unchanged. The situation is more or less the same at Donetsk Oblast mines. Many money-losing mines were still in operation thanks to

financial and credit propping by the state. This made it possible to support a great number of jobs in order to avoid unemployment. But it also contributed to unprecedented inflation in the country. It can no longer continue this way.

Today inefficient mines cannot count on large-scale help on the part of the state. There is one way to survive—mobilization of internal reserves. But not all reserves can be used by mines without state support. Some subsidies will be needed. A subsidy is the state sharing in the coal producers' expenses. The state's share depends on its capabilities and the need for coal. At the same time, coal producers must ensure the required volume and production cost.

Great Britain's experience is interesting in this respect: It carried out a program of closing unprofitable mines soon after the notorious strike of British miners. The state there set a maximum for production costs the mines could achieve. If that value was exceeded, the mine was closed. Over a four-year period, while maintaining the same total level of coal production, 60 mines in the country were closed, with a 40-percent labor force reduction.

Ukraine's Gosugleprom began a similar undertaking. Twenty-one mines with low technical and economic indicators have been selected (including 12 in Donetsk Oblast), and for them targets have been set for 1994 requiring an increase in labor productivity and reduction in production cost. If it turns out that it is impossible to improve the situation by the means available, the mines will be closed. It is clear that other mines will follow in the footsteps of this first group.

It is clear that the road to better productivity and production cost indicators lies through ensuring effective employment for the population. The process of improving employment includes freeing workers, redistributing them among spheres of employment, existence of unemployment, ensuring high labor productivity, and remuneration by results of labor. Many people found themselves unprepared for this process, which by itself is not unexpected for the industry. First and foremost unprepared for an understanding that production should employ as many workers as it needs, not as many as there are available. In practice, it manifested itself in such associations as Artemugol, Dzerzhinskugol, and Ordzhonikidzeugol, where the size of the labor force practically has not changed since 1992, while the output of coal fell by 20-24 percent. It is obvious that when production declines, it is logical to let some workers go. If a decline is temporary, it is a temporary lay-off. The heart of the solution to employment problem is creating a core of skilled and productive workers at enterprises (associations). The size of the remaining labor force must change on the basis of production needs.

There are many ways to provide employment for persons released from primary production. In particular, there is the known practice of creating auxiliary enterprises. Donetskugol association has experience in this respect. There are enterprises in its system that make sausage and furniture, churn butter, and manufacture equipment. Yu. Seregin wrote about it in the article "Will Donetskugol-lapti-selkhoz-prom Save Us If the Mines Are Closed?" (DONBASS, 13 November 1993). Actually, the association does not yet make lapti [bast sandals]. But there is no doubt that the approach taken by the association, which may include different solutions, will help the miners to weather transition years. And the society as a whole will benefit from it, since people will be paid wages for the results of their labor instead of "pay" for idling during the periods of decline and cutbacks in the primary production.

There is also another important ask—we need to break the dependency psychology of some collectives. As is known, when our miners insist on their demands, they are inclined to point out the income of American miners. But one has to look at himself with a critical eye and ask himself why labor productivity of five to 10 tonnes a month has become so common? This is several times less than the level reached by Ukraine in the past and tens of times less than the yield produced by American coal miners. So at whose expense do the collectives with poor labor results intend to live?

Growth of labor productivity in the sector as a whole is hampered by shortcomings in the development of the mine inventory. The oblast currently has many small mines: 67 percent of the mines have the production capacity of less than 60,000 tonnes a month, and 22 percent have less than 300,000 tonnes a month. Other countries have long disposed of such things. So perhaps we should now speed up the closing or denationalization of small mines? This will allow to use of materials and labor resources more effectively. The capacities being taken off line may be compensated for by increasing the rate of utilization of capacities of remaining enterprises. There are reserves in this respect, since last year in the oblast on average capacities were being utilized at a 77-percent rate, and in almost one-third of the mines, at less than 60 percent.

And, finally, the measures for reanimation of the coal industry will be successful only when the workers unconditionally accept the rule that "there should be discipline at work!" and wages are commensurate only with the results. This should reinforce workers' understanding that this is no longer the time when, as Nikolay Ivanovich Bukharin said: "From a hired slave, the proletariat of our country became a hegemon." These days all of us must first and foremost become civilized hired labor, and in addition, we may become co-owners of enterprises. The more we persist in not understanding it, the worse it will be for us, and the more realistic the prospect that we will indeed need bast sandals...

Belarus

Reactions to Monetary Union With Russia Viewed

Prime Minister's Reaction

LD1504152094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1233 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Report by BELINFORM correspondent Yekaterina Vysotskaya for TASS]

[Text] Minsk 15 April, TASS—"One should not be afraid that the foreign capital will turn its back to its Belarussian [Belarusian] partners because of the agreement with Russia. Honest investors, for whom partnership with Belarus is a matter of economy, not politics, have already come to our country, and the unification of the Belarussian and Russian markets will not influence those relations," Belarussian Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich said at a news conference.

He pointed out that problems connected with relations between Belarus and third countries are not coordinated with Russia. This is why it is for Belarus to decide whether to take foreign credits or not.

Responding to the question of journalists about the reaction of the International Monetary Fund to the signing of the agreement, Kebich said: "A letter that we received before the signing of the documents reaffirmed, that the IMF would continue to cooperate with us. Moreover, the letter asked to decide more quickly whether we join the rouble zone or not. So, our foreign partners were also waiting for an answer to the question: Shall we enter the rouble zone or not?"

Mixed Parliament's Reaction

MK1504115094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian, 15 Apr 94, p 4

[Report by Valentin Zhdanko under the "Neighbors" rubric: "'Little Hare's' Merger With the Ruble Sparks Turbulent Reaction. Group of Belarus Deputies Demands Criminal Proceedings Against Participants in the Signing of Treaty With Russia"]

[Text] The agreement on merging the monetary systems of Belorussia [Belarus] and Russia signed in Moscow has provoked a mixed reaction among the country's political forces. A group of Supreme Soviet deputies representing the Social Democratic Party turned to parliament's presidium with a demand for "carrying out without delay an investigation and, if necessary, instituting criminal proceedings against the participants in preparing and signing this treaty," which contravenes the constitution currently in force. A number of opposition parliamentarians also demanded that the agenda of an extraordinary session should include the question of resignation of Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich and members of his government "for unconstitutional activities."

The extraordinary session of parliament will take place on 27 April. At its closed session, which ended in the evening of 13 April, the Supreme Soviet presidium, however, declined to include in its agenda a revision of the Constitution articles with which the signed Belarus-Russia treaty is at variance. The session will be devoted to electing the country's constitutional court.

The parliament head is refraining from comment on the agreement Prime Minister Kebich signed in Moscow on the plea that the question needs to be studied additionally: Pressing for an urgent conclusion of a financial alliance at any price, Mr. Kebich clearly went beyond the bounds he had set himself and that were agreed on by parliament leaders. The upcoming presidential elections introduce an added nuance. It is still unknown whether Speaker Mechislaw Hryb is going to run. He was restrained about the signed agreement and instructed parliamentary commissions to see to which extent it corresponds with the Constitution.

The deputies will inevitably raise the problem of merging the two countries' monetary systems at the 27 April extraordinary parliament session. The majority in the Supreme Soviet will clearly back the agreement and will be ready to amend the Constitution then and there. The examination of this question will be postponed, however, (most probably on the prime minister's insistence) to see what the people think about it. The voting is planned to coincide with the 23 June presidential elections. Vyacheslav Kebich hopes that the elections will demonstrate sweeping popular support for his course of convergence with Russia, and therefore, whatever their upshot, he would remain at the helm of the Executive Branch for at least as long as this parliament's powers last. The election campaign for potential presidential candidates will officially start in Belorussia on 15 April. Already under way is the registration of initiative groups that are gathering signatures, and the formation of electoral commissions.

Krawchanka Comments

LD1504174394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1521 GMT 15 Apr 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: Reports by diplomatic correspondents Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy and others]

[Text] In response to INTERFAX's question on whether agreement on the merger of the Russian and Belarusian monetary systems translated into a move toward a confederation of the two republics, Belarusian Foreign Minister Piotr Krawchanka said existing legal regulations were what counted most at this stage.

The Belarusian constitution provided for the existence of a National Bank and, Krawchanka said, before the Belarusian parliament moved to amend the fundamental law, the idea of a merger would have a hard time in

Belarus. But, let's not put the cart before the horse, he said, it was yet difficult to say how exactly the merger agreement would work.

The removal of the first problems on the road for the effective realization of Russian and Belarusian economic plans was what counted most and spelled a big success for the Belarusian Cabinet and its Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich, Krawchanka said.

Hryb Opposes Constitution Amendments

LD1704153894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1230 GMT 17 Apr 94

[Text] The Chairman of the Belarusian Parliament Mechyslaw Hryb shows no enthusiasm on plans to amend the national constitution in a bid to realize the 12 April agreement on the merger of the Russian and Belarusian monetary systems.

In an exclusive interview with INTERFAX Hryb said it was impossible to amend the fundamental law on the first day after its introduction, if it cost the national legislature more than two years of hard work to phrase it. On 15 April Hryb and Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich met in Moscow with Russian head of government Viktor Chernomyrdin. They agreed, said Hryb, that Article 5 of the merger agreement would be amended in keeping with the Belarusian Constitution.

Under Article 5, the assets and liabilities of the National Bank of Belarus make part of the assets and liabilities of the Central Bank of Russia. That lays a groundwork for the merger of the Russian and Belarusian monetary systems. On 12 April, Stanislav Bogdankevich of the Belarusian Bank agreed to sign the merger agreement only if the objections in principle against Article 5 were taken into consideration. He said that under Belarus' new constitution the National Bank emerged as the central bank of a sovereign country.

Hryb also opposed Kebich's proposal for a nationwide referendum on the merger of thee Russian and Belarusian monetary systems. In Hryb's view, a referendum would confuse the Belarusians. The decision to call a referendum rested exclusively with the Belarusian parliament.

Hryb made it clear that his objections were not intended to spark a conflict between himself and Kebich, let alone a conflict between the Legislative and Executive Branches of power. What he said should not be seen in the context of a new electoral campaign.

Marchers Protest 'Barbaric U.S. Bombardment' in Serbia

WS1504141094 Minsk VECHERNIY MINSK in Russian 13 Apr 94 p 1

[Report by Vasiliy Romanovskiy: "Serbian Brothers, Our Hearts Are With You"]

[Text] Yesterday, representatives of the Belaya Rus Slavic Assembly, the Officers' Union, the Communist Party of Belarus, the Movement for Democracy, Social Progress, and Justice, and other social organizations gathered by the U.S. Embassy in Minsk to protest the bombing of Serbian positions by U.S. Air Force fighters. The picketers—who came armed with the slogans "Serbian brothers, our hearts are with you," "Yankee go home; Serbian soil will burn under your feet," and "Belarusians demand punishment for killing our brothers in Yugoslavia"—burned a symbolic U.S. flag and passed a statement to embassy officials addressed to the U.S. President and American people, which reads:

"We are filled with indignation over the barbaric U.S. bombardment of civilian targets in Yugoslavia. With great anxiety over the fate of the world, we protest against this inhuman policy. All attempts on the part of Belarusian society to prevent this insane step have been left unanswered by the U.S. administration, which does not want to listen to the voice of reason. The Slavic world will not leave this act of vandalism unanswered.

"The war in Yugoslavia has testified to the entire world that the freedom-loving Serbian people are unvanquished, and that military intervention will only lead to the outbreak of a new world war... Stop before it is too late!"

"This quite unlawful action," Nikolay Sergeyev, cochairman of the Slav Assembly Duma, told a VECHERNIY MINSK correspondent, "testifies to the fact that the United States is assuming more and more the role of the world's gendarme with the right to intervene in the affairs of sovereign states and people, if, from the [U.S.] point of view, the behavior of those people does not comply with the [U.S.] aspirations to introduce 'a new world order.' Unfortunately, the United Nations is turning into an assistant of these hegemonic aspirations of the United States.

"Furthermore, we believe that the Republic of Belarus should establish diplomatic relations with the Federative Republic of Yugoslavia in the near future, and render feasible assistance to the Serbian people in their just fight against the so-called forces of the world community.

"We draw the attention of the Supreme Soviet and Belarusian Government to the ever growing NATO threat to the national interests of our country, and we believe that Belarus should by no means join the NATO-projected Partnership for Peace..."

The Belarusian Committee of Solidarity with Serbs and Montenegrins has also condemned the pillage of the U.S. military in Yugoslavia.

Defense Ministry Issues Statement on Army Neutrality

LD1504152394 Minsk Belarusian Foreign Ministry Department of Information in Russian 2017 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] The collegium of the Belarusian Defense Ministry has published a statement. The leadership of the armed forces expressed concern that the election campaign under way is being accompanied by an intensification of political tension around the Army. The statement recalls that, in accordance with the Constitution, servicemen enjoy civil rights and are not linked to decisions of political parties. According to the law "On the Armed Forces of the Republic of Belarus," the activity of any parties, sociopolitical movements, and other other organizations is prohibited in the Army. The collegium of the Defense Ministry demanded an end to attempts to draw the Army into the political struggle.

Presidential Election Results Viewed

WS1504160094 Minsk NARODNAYA GAZETA in Belarusian 12 Apr 94 p 1

[Article by Syerhey Plytkevich: "23 June Is Around the Corner, And Everyone Should Determine Their Position"]

[Text] Since 15 March, Belarus is a presidential republic. It is expected that the president, who will be elected on 23 June or a bit later by a popular vote, will become head of the state and the executive power. Paradoxically, however, the new Constitution left the soviets that—at least in the hinterland—will continue to hold sway, as they did in the past. As no presidential structures are envisioned so far for the country's regions, it would take a lot of optimism to expect that the introduction of the presidency will bring only good things to our people. The example of Russia, showing what confrontation between Executive and Legislative Branches can lead to, is only too vivid, but you do not even have to go as far as Russia! In other former Soviet republics that introduced presidential rule, changing the government system is conducted with great difficulties.

What is it that Belarus expects? With the most probable presidential candidates already known, this can be predicted even today. Knowing those candidates and the forces standing behind them, one can predict with a great dose of probability to what the victory of any of them will lead.

In an article "About 'Bison,' 'Mice,' and Gorbachev's Shadow," published in NARODNAYA GAZETA of 22 February, 1994, I spoke out on why the majority in the Supreme Soviet chose this particular time to introduce the presidency in the Republic, and why the Belarusian Popular Front opposition, the free trade unions, and the striking committees attempted to stage a nationwide political strike in February of this year. As we know, the attempt fizzled out, but the Republic's leadership, supported by the legislative majority, did reach its goals. The scenario that I predicted before has already started to unfold—in what might prove a very risky undertaking, the party of power is now attempting to strengthen its power. It needs its own president. Its main candidate is Belarusian Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich. In the words of certain parliamentary deputies, a collection of deputies' signatures in his favor has already gotten under way. In addition, we received phone calls from several places and learned that the callers were intensively instructed to set up initiating groups to support Vyacheslav Kebich as the candidate for president.

As a matter of fact, there will be nothing reprehensible about this if such groups emerge voluntarily, but it would be a different thing if they are forged by directives, forcing officials, whose fate is now in the hands of the Cabinet of Ministers and rayon and oblast executive councils, to enter them. That would be the case of blatant pressuring and an attempt to influence the citizens' free choice. However, there is no need to repeat all this right now, because our state has always exerted pressure on its citizens; and it would be naive to think that this will change during the first presidential election in independent Belarus. Of course, all opponents of Kebich are perfectly aware of this fact, and are bracing up for heavy fighting. It was not by accident that the legislative majority, pressing for the soonest possible election of the president, wished to break its promise to hold early elections to the Supreme Soviet in March 1994. The explanation is simple—under control of the Cabinet of Ministers, they will elect their new president in June, and then, under control of the president, hold legislative elections. This would not violate the democratic procedures and will leave power in the hands of previous wielders.

This will happen if Vyacheslav Kebich emerges as a victor in the presidential elections. His present moves show where he is going to lead the Republic.

I am not sure about all the Belarusian people, but this outcome is most desirable for the Cabinet of Ministers and the legislative majority.

What if Belarusian Supreme Soviet Chairman Mechyslaw Hryb joins the race for the presidential seat? Although this prospect cannot be ruled out, the question is how realistic is his victory? However, this would set a remarkable precedent when local executive bodies would have to make decisions on their own, instead of waiting for instructions from on high. In this case, the elections would be more democratic. Even if Hryb lost, he would forever go down in Belarusian history as a man who tried to remove pressure from the electorate. The future will show whether Mr. Hryb will decide to make this move.

And what will happen if deputy Alyaksandr Lukashenka wins the elections? Although Mr. Lukashenka is a very complex figure, he is resolutely proceeding toward his

goal. He is quite respected by Belarusian citizens, and... spurned both by leftist and rightist forces. Remember an amendment proposed by Vasiliy Chepik, member of the Popular Movement, saying that the president should be at least 45 years old, not 35? Alyaksandr Lukashenka is 39, and is open about his intention to fight for the presidential post. It is clear that the amendment was targeted at him in the first place. It was voted down, though. It was supported both by far left candidates and by deputies working in the Cabinet of Ministers. A paradox? Not at all. It is just that everyone fears Lukashenka's unpredictability; and state officials understand very well that once Lukashenka is elected, many of them will have a difficult life.

However, Belarus will experience an even more uncertain situation if Stanislav Shushkevich, Gennadiy Karpenko, or Zyanon Paznyak will be elected president. All of them will find themselves in a bind if they win the election. First, the Constitution does not give the Belarusian president too many rights and powers. Second, a democratic Belarusian president will have an alienated parliament, not to mention the Cabinet of Ministers. You cannot fire everyone—go and try to figure out which of the Cabinet of Ministers' employees is capable of working in new conditions! So, we might have a real but absolutely powerless president; or, there will be a confrontation between him and the parliament and local executive council leadership. Most important, in spite of the activation of the Belarusian Constitutional Court, these conflicts would be practically irresolvable, perpetuating anarchy and a lack of responsibility.

This outcome was forecasted by the opposition deputies. This is why they had called for the reformation of local authorities—the Soviet power is incompatible with the presidential one, but the [legislative] majority did not hear them. Obviously, it was confident that a puppet of the Cabinet of Ministers will become president, leaving no room for conflicts.

Alas, life teaches us that even the most promising and easy plans sometimes fall through at the last moment, and then, disappointed, we curse ourselves for our own improvidence.

But still, a reader might ask, if all of the possible outcomes of the presidential election are so bleak, for whom should I vote? I am not going to campaign for anyone here. I know that all Belarusian citizens want to live better, but what does it mean to live better? To live the kind of life we had a decade ago, having a guaranteed piece of bread and sausage, and thinking this was the best that could have happened to us? Or, to live as people do in civilized countries, experiencing true freedom and really enjoying life? We had been thinking about our socialist Motherland, cutting back on our salaries to buy furniture or a car, and hoping that our children will be happier. Those on top of the power had been thinking about themselves, working for big money, and vacationing all over the world.

So, a better life can mean different things. We hope that most Belarusian citizens look ahead, into the future. If so, we need a president who would lead the Republic in this very direction. If he reflects opinions of most of the people, we should fear no confrontation with conservative forces.

We will overcome everything if we want to. So, determine your positions, dear citizens!

Resolution 'To Step Up Crime Combating Activities' Adopted

WS1504174794 Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belarusian 9 Apr 94 pp 1, 2

[Report attributed to BELINFORM: "Government Undertakes Measures To Toughen Crime Combating Activities"]

[Text] The Belarusian Cabinet of Ministers adopted a resolution "On Organizational Measures To Step Up Crime Combating Activities."

The resolution states that due to the growing tension in society, caused by the scaled up crime and climbing corruption that are seriously threatening the interests and economic security of the state, the Cabinet of Ministers, on a commission from the Presidium of the Belarusian Supreme Soviet, is completing a draft of a state program of urgent measures to step up crime combating activities.

Taking into consideration the grounded demands of the population to step up crime combating activities, to increase the responsibility of state officials, to upgrade the management of the legal system in the Republic, and in order to adopt this document, the Belarusian Cabinet of Ministers authorized the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Defense Ministry, the State Committee for Customs, the Chief State Tax Inspection within the Ministry of Finance to undertake urgent measures to prevent and stop office misuses in the sphere of production and distribution of consumer goods, to provide security of citizens in the streets, to uncover and confiscate firearms from people who illegally keep it, to prevent stealing of vehicles, theft of fuel and lubricants, and agricultural products during sowing and harvesting campaigns, and other measures that provide for the protection of the interests of the state, the rights and core interests of the citizens.

Mass media will report on the course and results of this work to the Belarusian Cabinet of Ministers and the population of the Republic every three months.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs during the period of April-June 1994 will be charged with establishing:

—In oblast centers and other big cities special purpose militia departments to stop activities of criminal groups;

—Within the Minsk City Executive Committee a special sector of internal affairs to keep public order, prevent and uncover crimes at markets, in hotels, and other places which give rise to crime.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Chief State Tax Inspection within the Ministry of Finance are charged with forming special detachments from the personnel of these ministries and other interested organizations to control trading in consumer goods and agricultural products produced in the local region, to uncover concealment of profits from taxation and the artificial setting up of monopoly prices for goods.

Special detachments for combating organized and economic crime, visa and passport sections and information centers within the Ministry of Internal Affairs will receive additional manpower from the law enforcement agencies. Special purpose militia departments and militia units within internal troops will be established in oblast centers and other big cities.

The Ministry of Finance is charged with issuing considerable assets to the Ministry of Internal Affairs to improve the material and technical supply of the agencies of internal affairs and to increase militia manpower foreseen by this resolution.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs is charged by 1 July 1994 to draft a new organizational structure of the ministries, departments of internal affairs within the oblast executive committees, Minsk City and Bobruysk Town executive committees, the Department of Internal Affairs for transportation issues, taking into account tasks of the internal affairs' officers to step up activities for combating crime and corruption.

A decision was adopted to establish a coordinative council of the law enforcement agencies' chiefs with regard to the issues of combating crime and corruption within the Belarusian Cabinet of Ministers, which will be headed by Prime Minister Vyachaslaw Frantsevich Kebich.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs along with the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Resources, the Ministry of Communications, the State Committee for Industry and intersectoral productions are charged with drafting laws and submitting them for the consideration of the Cabinet of Ministers in 1994:

—On criminal responsibility for the malicious violation of the administrative supervision and use of drugs for nonmedicinal purposes;

—On responsibility for vagrancy and beggarliness;

—On extension of powers and competence of militia departments' chiefs within the executive committees of corresponding soviets of people's deputies;

—On introduction of tax breaks for enterprises and organizations which deal with production of means of communications, vehicles, and other types of special equipment and its selling to internal affairs departments.

The Belarusian Government deems it expedient to introduce official positions of government representatives to the staff of oblast executive committees, the Minsk City Executive Committee, and other city executive committees, according to appendix No. 2 (in cities with population exceeding 100,000 people) to coordinate the activity of law enforcement agencies beginning 1 April 1994.

The Directorate for Coordination of Activities of administration of the Central Office within the Belarusian Cabinet of Ministers is charged with controlling the implementation of this resolution.

Moldova

Snegur Welcomes Ukraine Joining CIS Economic Union

LD1504200494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1814 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] The Moldovan leadership intends to examine the memorandum on border cooperation between Russia, Ukraine and Belarus signed in Moscow on April 15, Moldovan President Mircea Snegur told Interfax before leaving Moscow. "I am not familiar with this memorandum. It was not discussed at the CIS summit. However, we must study this issue. It would be quite useful for us," Snegur pointed out.

Snegur welcomed Ukraine joining the CIS economic union as an associated member. "This would enhance economic cooperation between Ukraine and Moldova," he stressed. However, Snegur underlined that economic relations between Ukraine and Moldova were based primarily on a bilateral treaty.

President Snegur Signs Document on Association With CIS

AU1704162294 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2028 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow, BASAPRESS, 15/4/1994—The reunion of the delegations of the CIS member states was held this morning. The CIS presidents have met in the Kremlin and the prime ministers in the President Hotel, says a Presidential Press Service communique released from Moscow. After the meeting of the CIS presidents, Mircea Snegur signed the document of joining the CIS with the proper amendments. The amendments say that Moldova as a CIS member will not participate in discussing problems regarding collective security and military-political collaboration. The meeting of prime ministers decided to create a commission for economic cooperation. "It is very important to sign the draft agreement regarding the creation of a free trade zone. It is worth noting that Moldovan delegations were taken into consideration. Most important is that the CIS states are

allowed to develop commercial ties with other countries beyond the CIS. The session also signed the draft regarding the Payments Union. This is, as Vice Premier Valentin Kunev said, the first document that brings us closer to the economic union. By elaborating the other agreements this union should be supported. It insures a market for Moldovan output. The document on labor migration and workers' social protection was also signed. This document is very important for Moldova which faces unemployment problems. By signing these agreements, Moldovan citizens have the same rights as the citizens of the state where they work." The prime minister examined the agreement guaranteeing the rights of national and religious minorities. The discussions over this agreement will be continued in the second half of May. The declaration on respecting the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of the CIS member states' borders was also discussed. Viktor Siniov, representative of eastern Moldova, was among the members of the Moldovan delegation. According to Kunev, Siniov took an active part in discussions and this shows that the disagreements can be overcome. Beginning at 1400 the presidents and premiers will meet to sign the agreements, says the communique.

Dniester Leader Reports to Parliament on Talks With Snegur

AU1704162494 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2028 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Tiraspol, ROMPRES, 15/4/1994—Yesterday, 14 April, Igor Smirnov [Dniester leader] reported to the session of parliament of the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic the items he discussed with President Snegur in their recent meeting. Smirnov said all problems concerning relations between Chisinau and Tiraspol, except the status and the terms of withdrawal of the 14th Army, have been discussed. Negotiations on the special status of Dniester will be held on the basis of suggestions of the CSCE mission and Russian Federation, said Smirnov, mentioning that the suggestions of Russia are more favorable for the Dniester republic. He also pleaded for the Ukraine to enter negotiations, mentioning that he will continue to stand for the confederalization of Moldova. According to the declarations of the leader from Tiraspol at the mentioned meeting both leaders accepted that Moldova cannot yet have a single currency in circulation. The negotiators agreed.

Chisinau Denounces Romanian Criticism of CIS Membership

LD1504130794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1207 GMT 15 Apr 95

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Kishinev 15 April, TASS—Official Kishinev [Chisinau] expressed a protest against negative reaction of the Romanian political circles to the decision of Moldavia [Moldova] to join the Commonwealth of Independent States.

"Everyone should understand that Moldova is an independent state and can take any decision," Moldavian President Mircea Snegur stated in this connection.

Some Romanian law-makers called on their colleagues to condemn "the inclusion of the traditional Romanian lands into the new Soviet empire," according to the Kishinev radio.

Dumitru Motspan, deputy chairman of the Moldavian parliament and also the leader of the ruling Agrarian and Democratic Party, called Romania's reaction insulting. The recent poll and parliamentary elections showed that overwhelming majority of the population stood against unification with Romania and for independence, he told ITAR-TASS.

"We will conclude profitable economic and other agreements with all countries of the world, join international unions and do not intend to ask anyone's permission for that," Motspan stressed.

"The inclusion of Moldavia into CIS and the economic union would allow it to establish civilized mutual relations with CIS countries, to restore old and create new mutually beneficial economic links," he added.

Gutsu Comments on Russian Monetary System Merge Experiment

LD1404221694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1934 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Moldovan Vice Premier Ivan Gutsu stated that the merging of the Russian and Belarusian monetary systems was a political move rather than an economic one. He suggested in an interview with Interfax today that Kishinev [Chisinau] would follow the experiment with great interest, however, Moldova did not as yet intend to participate in it. Gutsu emphasized that Moldova would strengthen its national currency unit—lei, the exchange rate of which had been stable for the last months.

"To have our own national currency does not harm economic relations between the CIS states. Moreover, after the Moldovan Parliament ratified the agreement on joining the CIS and the CIS economic union signed by Moldovan President Mircea Snegur, these relations will become closer. We will consider the issue on participation in the customs union and in the single payment zone," Gutsu said.

Russia Reduces Natural Gas Supply To Chisinau by 30 Percent

AU1704162094 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2028 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 15/4/1994—Russia reduced the volume of natural gas supply for Moldova by 30 percent beginning on the afternoon of 14 April, told BASAPRESS Ion Grau, vice-director of the State Gas Department. The cause was Moldova's failure to pay the Russian "Gazprom" organization debts amounting to 150 billion Russian rubles, specified the quoted source. Ion Grau said that in order to economize supplies the pressure in the gas pipelines is to be reduced. According to Grau, many people did not pay in time for natural gas and that is why the debts were not repaid. Natural gas worth about $700,000 is consumed each day in Moldova, specified Grau.

Kazakhstan

Russia, U.S. To Conduct Military Exercises at Totskiy

LD1504153394 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 0400 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] The Russian and U.S. military exercises of the peace-making forces at Totskiy in Orenburg Oblast will be held this summer. The presidents of the two countries made this decision, and it will probably not be changed. Colonel General Eduard Vorobyev, first deputy commander in chief of ground forces, told this to an ITAR-TASS correspondent. According to Vorobyev, preparation for the exercise is under way in conformity with the schedule. About 250 men will participate, one company from each side. Use of military technology and shooting are not included in the plans for the exercise. Gen. Vorobyev stressed: We do not intend to use a single fragment of force. Each side in the exercise will do its service in the relevant zone.

Nazarbayev's Physician Gives Further Detail of Condition

LD1504160994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1512 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondents Amangeldiy Akhmetalimov, Gennadiy Kulagin]

[Text] Almaty, 15 April (TASS)—"Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev has chronic radiculitis exacerbation," Nazarbayev's physician Vladimir Perekhoda told KAZTAG. This is the reason for his today's absence from a meeting of the Commonwealth councils of state and government heads.

"The president used to work in a foundry. He lifted heavy things and once overstrained himself. The trauma later developed into chronic radiculitis," he said.

"A whole group of physicians is taking care of the president. We are unanimous in the opinion that radiculitis and cold Nazarbayev is suffering from must be cured. That is why, we recommended the president to cancel his Moscow visit," stressed the physician.

Premier Responds to Criticism of Government

LD1504171394 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko held a news conference in Almaty today. Attending were his first deputy Akezhan Kazhegeldin, Economy Minister Mars Urkumbayev, Finance Minister Yerkeshbay Derbisov, and National Bank Chairman Daulet Sembayev.

He stressed that rumors about the lack of a constructive governmental program of action were groundless and there was no necessity to adopt a new program. It was said that the program exists, is viable, and is working already. The president has endorsed the anticrisis measures program for 1993-95. At the parliament session the government will report about the progress of implementation of this program. The Cabinet of Ministers is working in conformity with the adopted plan. Its work is described in the statement on the economic policy for 1994 which was published.

Besides, in conformity with the president's instruction, a group led by the first deputy prime minister was set up which is examining the alternative programs of economic development and reform in Kazakhstan, submitted by the opposition parties. Members of the government, answering questions, touched upon a number of topical problems in the implementation of these reforms. In particular, the measures to enhance the national currency were discussed, as well as state loans and credits, foreign financial aid for entrepreneurship, and the introduction of the new taxation system. Also discussed were enforceable enactments adopted of late on abolishing natural [as heard] allowances for some categories of the population, increase of minimum wages and pensions, and further state policy regarding the public welfare of citizens with low income.

Foreign Minister on Need To Form Eurasian Union

LD1604162094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1251 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Text] In an interview with INTERFAX Kazakhstan's Foreign Minister Tuleutay Suleymenov said that each on its own, the former Soviet republics would not be able to cope with their problems. What they could do though, was uphold President Nazarbayev's proposal for the creation of a Eurasian union.

According to Suleymenov, economics must in the long run prevail over politics. In its present shape the Commonwealth of Independent States failed to work. The 400-plus agreements between its members were disregarded. But if two or three or four republics interested in cooperation formed a Eurasian union, the union would work.

Suleymenov said that although many were afraid that the creation of supranational organizational structures would infringe on their sovereignty, Kazakhstan had no fears of that. And just because it was not afraid of that, President Nazarbayev launched his call for a Eurasian union.

In the foreseeable future all Commonwealth republics would—one after another—uphold the Kazakh initiative. Although some failed to see working models for cooperation, Suleymenov said, such models did exist and there was no need for inventing them from the scratch. The European Union, with its concerted customs and economic policies, and transnational banks and payments, set an example to follow. The emergence of a partnership on the order of the European Union would, among other things, resolve the problem of dual

citizenship. A person who wanted to change citizenship would be welcome to do so.

According to Suleymenov, there was no wise alternative to the creation of a Eurasian union. The former Soviet republics would never be able to separate. They needed each other. And even now, they showed a higher degree of integration that the member-nations of the European Union. So, concluded Suleimenov, what they had to do, was join forces. They broke up only to join forces on a new foundation.

Petropavlovsk Demonstrators Demand Government's Resignation

LD1604161794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1251 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Text] More than 4,000 participants of an unauthorized rally in Petropavlovsk, North Kazakhstan, said they had no confidence in the government and demanded its resignation.

The demonstrators, mainly representatives of Communist and Socialist movements as well as Cossacks, voiced their discontent over the social and economic situation both in their city and the republic as a whole and passed a resolution demanding the government's resignation.

In their opinion, the Kazakh president must bear responsibility for the republican government which has proved unable to lead the economy out of the crisis.

The demonstrators supported the region's economic independence and free trade with neighboring regions of Russia.

One of the organizers of the rally, Valeriy Ilyin, told INTERFAX that if these and other demands, mainly concerning state regulation of prices, centralized rationing of basic food staples, indexation of people's deposits with savings banks, were neglected, they could resort to other forms of civic protest allowed by the Kazakh Constitution.

The rally appealed to the Kazakh parliament session to open on April 19 to consider the issue of dual citizenship and making Russian the official language.

The demonstrators also demanded the leader of the local Russian-speaking community, Boris Suprunyuk, be set free. Suprunyuk had been detained on April 13 on charge of spreading ethnic strife. The participants of the rally also said they had no confidence in the region's prosecutor.

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev on Status of Ethnic Russians

PM1504112594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Apr 94 p 4

[Interview in Bishkek with Askar Akayev, president of Kirghizia [Kyrgyzstan], by Valeriy Konovalov, date not given: "Askar Akayev Sets Precedent in Solution of Problem of Russian-Speaking Population"]

[Text] Bishkek—In the past two years 120,000 people of Slav nationality, mainly Russians, have left Kirghizia. But the remarkable fact is that 20,000 have already returned.

"Our native Russians"—that was the term frequently used in our conversation by President Akayev when talking about the local Russian-speaking population, and it would seem that this is not a question of my interlocutor's eastern character. Akayev acknowledged that the opposition constantly accuses him of pro-Russian feelings. And this is not without reason. There are too many factors linking the Kirghiz president with Russia and Russian culture. His 17 years of life, study, and scientific work in Leningrad, and his family tree.

It turns out that he is the direct descendant of the Kirghiz khan who sent the first Kirghiz envoys to Russia back in the 18th century. Another of Akayev's forebears took part with General Skobelev in the annexation of Kirghizia to Russia.

Akayev tells of another curious and, to some extent, sensational fact from his family history. He is quite closely related to President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan. Askar Akayev's mother is a Kazakh. Once, when (briefly) head of the science department of the Kirghiz Communist Party Central Committee, he was in Alma-Ata [Almaty] for an interrepublic event. On that occasion a member of his family pointed to a man and said: That is Nazarbayev, our maternal second cousin....

Meanwhile, Akayev does not fear the charges of "pro-Russianism" because he is convinced that the interdependence of Kirghizia and Russia is an objective fact. Why?

The problem of the ethnic Russians in Kirghizia is more acute than in other Central Asian republics because there are far more of them here—almost a quarter of the population. In the main the Russian speakers are employed in industry, 90 percent of which consists of military-industrial complex enterprises. They constitute the most highly skilled workers and the intelligentsia—in other words, a valuable pool of manpower which the republic could ill afford to lose. That is how things stand from Kirghizia's viewpoint.

But Russia, too, must objectively have an interest in preserving the mighty Russian diaspora in our country, Akayev believes. For any country its diaspora in any other country is a factor of influence, a geopolitical factor.

Akayev and his team are now completing work on a state program of measures aimed at retaining the Russian-speaking population in the country. This unprecedentedly large-scale action is already bearing its first fruit. Until quite recently, according to the opinion polls, the language problem was top of the list among the causes of

distress to the nonindigenous population, but that problem has now slipped down to sixth place.

This has happened, the president explained, because this problem was entirely within the bounds of our competence to resolve. But, unfortunately, not everything depends on us alone. That was why we needed major support from Russia—and recently we got it.

It proved possible not only to give Russian the status of the second state language, Akayev explained, but also to insist on the ratification in the Constitution of a standard forbidding any infringement of people's interests on the grounds of their lack of knowledge of the state language. A special law is now being prepared which will enable the law-enforcement organs to combat any discrimination in this regard.

Akayev's main pride and joy is surely the Kirghiz-Russian Slav University, which is into its second year's work in the republic now, enjoys considerable popularity, and is being maintained on principles of parity. There are not only Slav students but Kirghiz, too. There are also students from neighboring republics. Incidentally, President Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan has already shown an interest in making the university interregional.

This is of great significance for our native Russians, Akayev said. This has given them the confidence that their children can get a good education in their own language.

But all of these things, let us recall, relate only to the Kirghiz side. Other factors—economic ones—have now risen to the top among the factors causing distress to the Russian-speaking population in Kirghizia.

We have been forced to suspend production at the majority of enterprises, Askar Akayev stressed. Primarily because of a lack of orders and shortages of components. We are talking about enterprises in the military-industrial complex. Mainly purpose-built enterprises. For example, they produce submarines at a level which is unparalleled anywhere in the world. In addition, we also have a purpose-built test base at Issyk-Kul, a deep-water clear lake. There are unique electronics enterprises, too. I am convinced that closing them down would be a mistake. After all, there is a social problem here, too: That of Russian specialists left without work. That is why we put a suggestion to Russia—let us share this problem equally and perhaps involve third countries. For example, we could issue shares in unique production units in such a way that Russia would have a large bloc of shares, perhaps the main bloc.

There is another painful problem—citizenship.

I have always favored dual citizenship, Akayev said. But your relative Nazarbayev is a fundamental opponent of it, I pointed out, and you can see his point of view. In the event of the introduction of dual citizenship in Kazakhstan an enormous proportion of the ethnic Russians will become citizens of Russia and there is the potential danger of a territorial conflict.

There is a great difference here, Akayev explained. We do not have a border with Russia and there can be no territorial problems here. Thus dual citizenship can only be a benefit for the Russian-speaking population in our country. The Uzbeks are a different matter, however. They live in the border region in our country and Kirghiz live in the border region of Uzbekistan, so in this case dual citizenship could play a negative role. Islam Karimov and I have agreed that for our countries the problem of dual citizenship is a closed question. In principle, I advocated and continue to advocate dual citizenship not as an abstract norm, but as a subject of interstate agreements. As for Russia and the Russian-speaking citizens, we should have no problems here.

Deputy Claims Government, Farmers All Bankrupt

LD1804101094 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Kyrgyz 2300 GMT 17 Apr 94

[Excerpts] It has already been reported that the first stage of work of the Zhogorku Kenesh's 14th session ended 16 April in Bishkek. Boris Grigorievich Bazhan, people's deputy from Moskovskiy rayon and chairman of the Engels kolkhoz, was interviewed by our correspondent.

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] [Bazhan] We passed quite workable laws, especially on pensions. The government informed us about what lies ahead. The prospects are not brilliant. The situation is very serious. Many enterprises are at a standstill. The main thing is that nobody knows where all that money has gone. In practice, the enterprises cannot settle payments—they are all bankrupt. Prime Minister Dzhumagulov said that these bankrupt enterprises are to blame, and first of all the state is to blame. The government is the number one bankrupt because the state owes the farmers a lot of money. It has not paid us for meat, milk, wool, or grain since 1993 for one single reason only: it announced subsidies for foodstuff and then we did not receive any payment from the budget. [passage omitted]

It is my impression that we are heading for nowhere. We are waiting for decisive measures from the government, from the president, but in fact we are still hanging around. Nobody is interested in working. All these new taxes, dues, and so on—they are not workable for one simple reason: Nobody has any money. [passage omitted]

It is a shame to say it but those who do not produce anything are much better off than those who do. [passage omitted]

This spring is very difficult. We should have sown winter wheat on 2,600 ha but we lost 1,000 ha because it was too humid. The sowing campaign leaves much to be desired. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Tajikistan

Supply of Gas to Ukraine To Be Resumed

LD1504125694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1128 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Glazovskaya]

[Text] Moscow, 15 Apr—Saparmurat Niyazov and Leonid Kravchuk have expressed their mutual aspirations to overcome the difficulties that have arisen by taking both parties' interests and mutual advantage into account. The presidents of Turkmenistan and Ukraine met in Moscow today at the meeting of CIS heads of state.

Agreement was reached that Turkmenistan would resume the supply of natural gas to Ukraine from 15 April this year, since the Ukrainian side has found an acceptable solution for paying off its debts.

The presidents of the two countries approved an interstate agreement which sets out a clear schedule for the settlement of payments and reciprocal supplies from Ukraine. Thus, the first payments amounting to $10 million have already been made and the supply of goods and various products worth $60 million has begun. According to the schedule, Ukraine will make payments of $78 million and supply goods and various other products worth $200 million every quarter.

During their conversation, the presidents spoke in favor of actively continuing their dialogue and developing cooperation, both on a bilateral basis and within the framework of the CIS.

Uzbekistan

Russian Ruble Outlawed in Uzbekistan From 15 Apr

LD1504092394 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0330 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] From today the circulation of Russian bank notes is prohibited on the territory of Uzbekistan. The government resolution on this has been signed by Uzbek President Islam Karimov. From today the exchange rate of the som, that is of the coupon to analogous foreign currencies, will be determined during regular trading at the Uzbek republican currency exchange.

Uzbekistan Afghan Claims of Aid to Opposition

PM1804103394 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Apr 94 First Edition p 6

[Report from roundup of ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA and ITAR-TASS reports: "Kabul's Accusations Denied"]

[Text] Afghanistan has accused Uzbekistan of supporting the opponent of the country's president, Borhanoddin Rabbani, that is Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar, and his ally General Dustum—an ethnic Uzbek whose troops also consist of Uzbeks.

Kabul radio yesterday broadcast a statement by the Afghan intelligence leadership to the effect that Tashkent has given Dustum aircraft to bomb the Afghan capital and this week they have already struck against Kabul. Surat Mirkasymov, Uzbekistan charge d'affaires ad interim to India, has categorically denied the Afghan intelligence service's statement.

France's Mitterrand To Start State Visit 25 Apr

LD1804120994 Tashkent UZBEKISTAN APN in Russian 1008 GMT 18 Apr 94

[Text] French President Francois Mitterand's state visit to Uzbekistan will start on 25 April. The visit is taking place at the invitation of President Islam Karimov. This was announced at the Uzbek Foreign Ministry's press center. During the visit, the two heads of state are expected to sign a package of documents on widening economic and humanitarian cooperation.

Armenia

Ter-Petrosyan, Aliyev Disagreements Foil Karabakh Talks

LD1704145694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1230 GMT 17 Apr 94

[Text] Disagreements on ways of settling the Karabakh conflict foiled talks between the Armenian and Azerbaijani presidents last week, within the framework of the CIS summit, Armenian Foreign Minister Vagan Papazyan told journalists on Saturday.

He said the two presidents were not planning to hold talks in the near future. He also announced that initially there had been plans to hold a quadripartite meeting on Russia's initiative, involving the Russian, Armenian and Azerbaijani presidents, and Chairman of Karabakh's State Committee for Defense Robert Kocharyan, who was also in Moscow during the summit.

"If Azerbaijan had given its general agreement to the Russian peace plan, which envisaged the use of peacekeeping forces and was supported by Yerevan and Stepanakert, the talks would have been held by all means," stated Papazyan.

"Only Russia is ready to send its troops to the conflict zone. The UN cannot do so at the moment," he said. He noted, however, that the participation of other CIS countries or Eastern European states, would be desirable for Russia.

"I'm sure this would be desirable for Azerbaijan, as well," he said.

Commenting on Aliyev's statement that Armenia was carrying out aggression against Azerbaijan, Papazyan said that "Armenian has been entangled into the conflict, but it is not a warring side." He pointed out, at the same time, that if the population of Karabakh came under the threat of deportation or genocide, Armenia would get involved in fighting "in earnest." Now Yerevan is trying to abstain from active participation in the conflict to avoid its escalation.

Deputy Shot, Killed in Yerevan

NC1504203894 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1950 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] The Armenian parliamentarian, writer, and public speaker Vardges Petrosyan was killed by (?a single) shot fired by unidentified persons at around 1700 today at the entrance of his residence on Khorenatsi Street on his return from work.

The Armenian Interior Ministry press service reported that Interior Minister Vano Siradegyan has gone to the site of the incident with an operations team. The public prosecutor and the inspector at the public prosecutor's office in Spandaryan district have also gone there.

A criminal investigation has been launched and it is being conducted by the public prosecutor's office in Spandaryan district.

Russian Lawmakers Meet in Yerevan With Russian Residents

LD1704083494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0707 GMT 17 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan April 17 TASS—Representatives of the Russian- speaking population in Armenia met on Saturday with the chairman of the Duma committee for affairs of the CIS, Konstantin Zatulin, and chief consultant of this committee and member of the Russian Presidential Council, Andrannik Migranyan, who arrived in Yerevan.

"Around 15,000 Russians are currently residing in Armenia and they have no complaints about any infringement on their rights or ethnic discrimination," said representatives of the Russian speaking population during the meeting.

Chairman of the "Rossiya" society, Galina Chernousova, told Russian lawmakers that this organisation unites ethnic Russians in Armenia, protects their interests and rights and renders them all possible assistance. The society has branch offices in all areas if Armenia, including in places predominantly populated by Russians.

Chernousova pointed out that the main problem faced by the Russian-speaking population in Armenia is the problem of education. After Armenia proclaimed independence, all Russian schools and faculties teaching in Russian were closed here. Armenians who were educated in Russian face the same problems as well. The Armenian law on the language demands that graduates of higher educational establishments, especially in engineering specialities, have a good command of the Armenian language. The same applies to those looking for jobs at state-run enterprises. Facing difficulties in education, the young generation sees no prospects in Armenia and have to leave Armenia and live elsewhere, Chernousova said.

Men 25-45 Not Allowed To Leave Without Special Permit

LD1704154994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1230 GMT 17 Apr 94

[Text] Men aged from 25 to 45 have been obliged not to leave the republic and to undergo a three-month course of military training. They can travel to places outside Armenia only by special permit.

Military training is considered to be a forced measure, caused by the complicated situation on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border.

Azerbaijan

Defense Ministry Reports 200 Killed Near Agdam

LD1704152694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1230 GMT 17 Apr 94

[Text] "Armenian units launched an offensive in the Agdam direction on Saturday, so Azerbaijani formation had to take adequate measures," the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry told INTERFAX. During fighting 1 tank and two trucks were destroyed and about 200 soldiers killed, says the Azerbaijani source. Azerbaijani losses are being specified.

On Sunday morning, following artillery preparations, Armenian formations launched an offensive in the Geranboy direction. The Azerbaijani army is doing everything it can to regain its positions, stated the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry.

The Karabakh Defense Army reports that on Sunday morning, after a night lull, the Azerbaijani army resumed attacks in a number of sections of the Karabakh front.

This sources says that the attack was targetted against the northern section of Karabakh's Mardakert Region, where heavy fighting has continued for more than six days now. Combat operations also continued in the south-eastern section in the direction of Fizuli.

The Karabakh forces put a third Azerbaijani tank out of actions over the past 24 hours.

Russian Mediator on Armenian-Azeri Settlement Plan

LD1504204294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1957 GMT 15 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Shulman]

[Text] Baku April 15 TASS—The Russian plan to settle the Karabakh armed conflict and eliminate the conflict aftermath that has been passed over to the Armenian and Azeri leadership includes many settlement variants. Their implementation may result in peace in case of the sides' agreement, Russian ambassador at large and head of the Russian mediating mission Vladimir Kazimirov told ITAR-TASS here today.

In his words, the Russian initiatives aim to terminate combat operations in the Armenian-Azeri conflict zone, liberate the occupied lands and return refugees to places of their permanent residence.

As for the plan details, Russia offers to separate the warring sides within three days after cease-fire. In the opinion of Kazimirov, it will take another three days to create a buffer or control zone to house international observers. He is sure these conditions will enable the liberation of occupied Azeri territories and solution of other problems related to the conflict.

A wise decision must be taken in order to save human lives, stop the bloodshed and war in the region, said the ambassador. Today's statement on settlement of the Karabakh conflict adopted at the Commonwealth summit has the same aims, said the diplomat.

He stressed the statement is a reaction of the Commonwealth state heads to the repeated appeals of Azeri President Geydar Aliyev, who thinks it is unnatural that "two Commonwealth states are at war".

Kazimirov said further war in the region is unpromising, it may aggravate the tragedy of the Armenian and Azeri peoples.

Resumption of Iranian Television Broadcasts Urged

NC1504132994 Baku TURAN in English 0917 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Baku (April 14) TURAN: Religious Muslims in Azerbaijan are demanding the resumption of television broadcasting from Iran.

The broadcasting of the daily Iranian programme was terminated in early March by Azerbaijan Television (AzTV) due to "an electrical energy deficit".

The head of the Executive Committee of the Islamic Party of Azerbaijan, Haji Vagif, condemned this act calling it "a treachery against the people".

In today's news daily "ISLAM DUNYASI" (Islamic World), Haji Vagif, accused national television of serving the interests of Zionism.

The head of the Azeri Broadcasting Company Babek Guseynoglu told Turan that for now AzTV does not intend to resume its broadcasting from Tehran.

The last agreement on Iranian transmission broadcasting programs to Azerbaijan was signed in autumn of last year and a simultaneous agreement was signed concerning broadcasting from Baku to Iran. However, this agreement has not been implemented.

Georgia

Disagreement With Abkhazia on Peacekeeper Deployment

LD1504200094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1824 GMT 15 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Konstantin Pribytkov]

[Text] Geneva April 15 TASS—Delegations from Georgia and its separatist province of Abkhazia failed to reach a compromise on where to deploy UN peacekeepers.

The UN- and Russia-brokered four-day talks were held in accordance with accords signed in Moscow early in April.

The sides remained adamant in their approach to a proposed stationing of the UN peacekeepers. Abkhazia suggests they must be deployed along the border river of Inguri, while Georgia says peacekeepers should control the whole territory of the breakaway province.

Ioseliani Interviewed on Abkhaz-Georgian Talks

LD1604230394 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1800 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Telephone interview with Jaba Ioseliani, head of the Georgian delegation at the Georgian-Abkhazian talks in Geneva, by an unidentified correspondent; date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Ioseliani] There are no results. There is a lot of argument. The formula for the deployment of UN troops in Abkhazia changed four times. In effect, the Abkhazians do not want troops to be deployed to allow the refugees and displaced people to return home. They are playing a cat-and-mouse game with us. They want to accept a minimum number of people, very few people.

The talks were about military aspects. They should have discussed how and where UN troops were to be deployed. However, the Abkhazians had devised their plans with the knowledge that unless troops are deployed, the refugees will not return. So, when we agree to something they want, they come up with new demands. In a word, they do not want it to go ahead.

Pressure on them can only be applied by the Russians. There can be no pressure from the United Nations. The rule is that everybody should sign the agreement. Troops cannot be deployed unless there is mutual consent. What can we do when they do not agree? We cannot impose it upon them by force, can we? The Russian delegation seems to have taken some steps, however, there is no final result yet.

There is a fourth formula. Our representative, General Vladimir Chikovani, is taking this formula to Tbilisi today. Let us see what happens. Batoni [Georgian polite form of address] Eduard Shevardnadze will see it. Perhaps consultations will be held about it. We will act in accordance with what they decide in Tbilisi. But it is a rather complicated formula.

At the same time, there is a formula envisaging CIS involvement. We were told by the Russians, by General Georgiy Kondratyev: Forget them. You see, nothing works out with them, the Americans. We will establish order in Abkhazia in three days. I do not know, but this is what they are saying.

The United Nations is really a bureaucratic and retrograde organization. The United Nations say: We have no right to do this and that, we have no rights at all. I told them: If you have no rights, we do not need your ornamental presence there.

They want to do the job wearing white gloves, but nothing can be done wearing white gloves.

[Correspondent] Batoni Jaba, what about Abkhazia's status?

[Ioseliani] This will be discussed on 19 April. But if we fail to solve this problem here, how can there be any talk about the status of Abkhazia. What is the need for a status when the issue of the refugees and the deployment of troops has not been solved?

So, we will act according to the will of the authorities, the people and Supreme Council.

[Correspondent] Batoni Jaba, does Russia have a concrete plan?

[Ioseliani] Russia agreed to our plan. When we produced it on the first day of talks, both the United Nations and Russia welcomed it, saying it was a businesslike and good plan. However, on the second day they said that the Abkhazians disagreed. What could we do if they disagreed? All right, we made concessions. They did not agree to the third formula either, and we are now discussing a fourth formula today.

There will be no end to new formulas because, in effect, they are against the deployment. They want just a minimum number, about 5,000 [as received] troops to be deployed at this stage. It will not work that way.

[Correspondent] Batoni Jaba, when the Russians ask us to let them in and promise to establish order in three days, what do they mean and what is their plan?

[Ioseliani] They are saying two parties should be involved. They or the CIS should be involved.

They asked me if we wanted the Ukrainians, on behalf of the CIS, and the Turks to be deployed there together. I told them that we did not want the Turks, but if it is the Ukrainians, then all right.

They do not want to act alone and be blamed for anything. They want to be peacemakers in the eyes of the world. [passage indistinct] They want either the CIS to be involved, or the United Nations. Then there will be UN observers. If this does not work, let it be a two-party thing, they say.

They say: It is not a problem at all to make two airborne landings and finish it off. We will establish order in three days.

[Correspondent] Batoni Jaba, when will this round of talks finish? And also, did we achieve any goals or not?

[Ioseliani] [Words indistinct] I personally think that the Abkhazians will not agree to anything. They will only agree...[pauses] They are now having their heads turned

by victory, so they will not agree to anything. Until you hit them in the head and do something to them...[pauses] People are like that—if everything goes unpunished, they carry on doing it.

Nevertheless, we won and they lost the information war. All countries support us, the United Nations supports us, the Russians, in fact, also support us. However, this is only verbal support. When it comes to the crunch-...[pauses] All right, it is a matter of money.

The United States promised money but it has not been allocated so far. Then, countries will have to gain the agreement of their parliaments to send troops. Then, a force has to be set up. Then, their rights have to be determined. Unless they are attacked, peacekeepers have little freedom of action. They just carry out a policing function. [passage indistinct]

We have influenced world public opinion to believe that we are right and that our territorial integrity is necessary. And now, if we can do it, even if we burn and scorch everything there [words indistinct].

[Correspondent] Are you in favor of a peaceful or military solution?

[Ioseliani] Of course, I am in favor of a peaceful solution. But I doubt that it is possible because unless they feel some pressure, the Abkhazians will not budge. If the Russians allow us to do it, if the Russians do not resist us, then my Mkhedrioni [special militia] will be enough to deal with them.

I told the Russians: Leave us alone, do not interfere, and I will show you what kind of people the Abkhazians are. If the Russians cannot allow this to happen, then they should deal with the problem themselves.

Let the United Nations do its business gradually. After it solves organizational issues in three or four months, then it will send troops and do whatever it likes. But before the United Nations does it...[pauses] I do not think we should say no to the United Nations. Let the United Nations do its business. Meanwhile, we will turn to Russia and the CIS. But this should happen under UN auspices. When UN troops are ready, they can be deployed.

If not, may the Russians leave us alone and we will deal with the Abkhazians. This is my answer.

[Correspondent] If the peace talks are not successful, do you think that there is a chance for us to win in the war?

[Ioseliani] If the Russians do not interfere, of course, there is. The Mkhedrioni alone is enough to deal with them, provided the Russians do not interfere.

Paper Publishes Accord on Settling Abkhazia Conflict

AU1504154294 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 5 Apr 94 p 2

[Georgian-Abkhazian "Statement on Measures for a Political Settlement of the Georgian-Abkhazian Conflict" signed in Moscow on 4 April in the presence on representatives from the UN, Russian Federation, and CSCE]

[Text] 1. The third round of negotiations on a full-scale settlement of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict were held in Geneva on 22-25 February 1994, in New York on 7-9 March 1994, and in Moscow on 29-31 March under the aegis of the UN and with the support of the Russian Federation and the participation of representatives of the CSCE and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

2. The negotiations were conducted in accordance with Security Council resolutions 849 (1993) of 9 July 1993, 854 (1993) of 6 August 1993, 858 (1993) of 24 August 1993, 876 (1993) of 19 October 1993, 881 (1993) of 4 November 1993, 892 (1993) of 22 December 1993, 896 (1994) of 31 January 1994, 901 (1994) of 4 March 1994, and 906 (1994) of 25 March 1994.

3. From the date on which this statement has been signed, the sides undertake to observe strictly the official cease-fire and again reaffirm their obligations not to use force and the threat of the use of force against one another in accordance with the communique of 13 January 1993.

4. The sides have reached an accord and signed a quadrilateral agreement on the voluntary return of refugees and displaced persons that is appended to this statement. The agreement guarantees the return of refugees and displaced persons in accordance with current international practice, in particular, that of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

A special commission for refugees and displaced persons composed of representatives of the sides, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the Russian Federation, and the CSCE in its capacity as an observer, will begin work in Sochi in the middle of April 1994. Implementation of the agreement will begin after the deployment of peacekeeping forces.

5. The sides reaffirm their request that the peacekeeping operation begin as soon as possible and a Russian military contingent form part of the UN peacekeeping troops, as stated in the Memorandum on Understanding of 1 December 1993 and the Communique of 13 January. The plan for implementing the operation to safeguard peace will be coordinated with the sides participating in the conflict.

The implementation of the operation to safeguard peace should also facilitate the safe return of refugees and displaced persons.

The sides again call upon the UN Security Council to extend the mandate of the UN Monitoring Mission in Georgia.

6. Abkhazia has its own constitution and legislation and its corresponding state attributes: hymn, coat of arms, and flag.

7. The sides have held consultations on the division of powers on the understanding that any agreement on this question forms part of the general settlement and will be reached only when a final resolution to the conflict has been found.

At this stage, the sides have reached a general understanding on powers relating to joint action in the following spheres:
a) foreign policy and foreign economic relations;
b) border service;
c) customs service;
d) power engineering, transport, and communications;
e) ecology and the elimination of the consequences of natural disasters;
f) protection of human and civil rights and freedoms and the rights of national minorities.

8. The sides have agreed to continue energetic efforts in order to achieve a full-scale settlement.

The sides will form a corresponding commission that will work on a permanent basis, taking into account the decisions of the UN Security Council and under the chairmanship of the United Nations, with the participation of representatives of the CSCE and Russian Federation and also international experts. The committee will hold regular meetings in Moscow and Geneva. The first meeting will take place in Geneva on 19 April 1994. A stage-by-stage action program will be elaborated along with proposals for the restoration of state-legal relations.

9. The sides have adopted a decision to implement additional measures on the search for persons missing without trace and reburial of the dead.

10. The sides, proceeding from the principle of the inevitability of punishment for persons who have committed war crimes and crimes against humanity, and also serious criminal offenses, as determined according to international and national law, have agreed to intensify their work concerning the investigation of such crimes with the aim of bringing those guilty to justice.

Persons who, with weapons in hand, are trying or will try to wreck the peace process in Abkhazia will also not escape punishment.
[Signed] On behalf of the Georgian side—A. Kavsadze,
On behalf of the Abkhazian side—S. Jinjolia.
In the presence of:
E. Brunner—on behalf of the United Nations,
B. Pastukhov—on behalf of the Russian Federation,
V. Manno—on behalf of the CSCE.
[Dated]Moscow, 4 April 1994.

CIS States May Bring Military Contingencies to Abkhazia

LD1504194994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1814 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] The signatories to the treaty on CIS common security called on the UN Security Council to adopt an urgent decision on a peacekeeping operation in Abkhazia where the Georgian-Abkhazian military conflict has been going on for a year and a half already.

The statement by the Council of CIS Common Security circulated in Moscow today says the participants in the treaty on CIS common security could bring their military contingencies to the conflict zone as peacekeeping forces with the consent of the conflicting parties. This could be done in accordance with the treaty on CIS common defense if no decision on the issue was made in the future for whatever reasons.

The Council of CIS Common Security adopted a statement on implementation of a peacekeeping operation in the zone of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict signed by Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

Chikvaidze Stresses Desire for More CIS Integration

LD1504173594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1521 GMT 15 Apr 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: by diplomatic correspondents Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy, and others]

[Text] Georgia's Foreign Minister Aleksandre Chikvaidze told Interfax there was hope for certain progress in the moves to settle the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict now that agreement had been reached on the repatriation of refugees.

Chikvaidze said it was slow progress even though nothing had been lost and hope remained for breaking the logjam in Georgian-Abkhazian relations.

Chikvaidze said Georgia and other countries could share many thoughts on the draft convention on the rights of ethnic minorities. Expert teams would have to work much before the convention could be signed, he said. On Thursday the Commonwealth's Council of Foreign Ministers decided the document was not yet ready for signing.

Chikvaidze stressed that Georgia wanted more integration with the Commonwealth of Independent States and would be working to achieve this. Integration was essential primarily from the point of view of economics. Georgia would try to keep its policies for Russia and other Commonwealth republics balanced with a view to promote good relations between the Georgians and Russians and other peoples.

Chikvaidze felt economic cooperation between Georgia and Russia would expand. Expanded cooperation and subsequent economic growth could well lead to the exchange of Georgian coupons for Russian rubles, said Chikvaidze and cited the example of Belarus.

Further on CIS Integration

LD1604161694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1251 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Text] Georgia's Foreign Minister Aleksandr Chikvaidze told INTERFAX that efforts to settle the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict showed certain progress now that an agreement had been signed on the repatriation of refugees.

It was slow progress, said Chikvaidze, although nothing had been lost and hope remained for ending the logjam in Georgian-Abkhazian relations.

He said Georgia wanted more integration with the Commonwealth of Independent States and would be working to achieve this. It needed more integration from primarily the economic point of view. And Georgia would still try to keep its policies for Russia and other Commonwealth republics in balance and working for good relations between its own and other nations.

In Chikvaidze's view, economic cooperation between Georgia and Russia would expand. Expanded cooperation and subsequent economic growth could well lead to the exchange of Georgian coupons for Russian rubles, said Chikvaidze and cited the Belarussian experience in that field.

'Union of Georgia's Citizens' Views Political Course

LD1704084694 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0700 GMT 17 Apr 94

[Text] The news service of the Union of Georgia's Citizens reports that a meeting of the board of the Union of Georgia's Citizens has been held in the large hall of the Cinema House.

The first issue on the agenda was a speech by Giorgiy Zhorzholiani, deputy chairman of the Union, who presented a brief outline of major trends and forms of the board's activity during the period following the congress [held in March 1994].

The board confirmed the commission chairmen. It was pointed out that the Union of Citizens is already beginning to put its practical measures into effect.

Speaking during debates on determining the political course of the Union, which was the final issue on the agenda, the chairman of the Union of Young Citizens has said that there would be a danger of having an amorphous and unmanageable organization unless the Union were experienced emotionally as an incorporated organism. In addition, it is essential that mistakes should be avoided like those made during the confirmation of members of the government.

The state treasury was said to be allocated to people who have not yet passed either a patriotism test or an honesty test. It was also noted that the Union's approval rating would decrease sharply unless a serious program was drafted to be presented to the electorate.

According to Zurab Zhvania, general secretary of the Union, there are many serious problems in the Union, but talks about the danger of disorganization are rather exaggerated.

Union Chairman Eduard Shevardnadze made a closing speech, and the board passed a resolution.

Shevardnadze on 'Symbolic Role' of Troops in Tajikistan

LD1704141294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1230 GMT 17 Apr 94

[Text] On Saturday Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze told the Georgian Citizens' Union Georgian troops would be playing a symbolic role in concerted moves to protect the Tajik borders. Shevardnadze said up to fifteen Georgian troops were likely to be sent soon to serve in Tajikistan.

Cabinet Issues Decree on Foreign Economic Deals

AU1804104894 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 8 Apr 94 p 3

["Decree of the Republic of Georgia Cabinet of Ministers on the Compulsory Registration of Foreign Economic Deals in the Republic of Georgia"]

[Text] In order to protect state interests during the transfer of the Georgian economy to the principles of a market economy and during the conclusion of foreign economic deals, the Republic of Georgia Cabinet of Ministers decrees:

1. To institute the compulsory registration of export, import, barter, compensation, and other foreign economic deals made by legal figures registered in the Republic of Georgia and representing the state sector who certify these deals and documents (henceforth "contract") after their signing.

2. To authorize the Georgian Committee for Foreign Economic Ties:

To ensure the registration of these contracts;

To send a copy of the registered contracts together with the registration certificate to that authorized bank where the organization participating in the contract has opened a currency account.

3. To authorize the Republic of Georgia Customs Department not to conduct a customs examination and not to issue a license for the transfer of the cargo without written permission from the Committee for Foreign Economic Relations.

4. To establish rules for the compulsory registration of export, import, barter, compensation, and other foreign economic deals after their compulsory registration.

5. This decree comes into force on 1 June 1994.

6. To publish the decree in the mass media.
[Signed] O. Patsatsia, prime minister of Georgia.

Estonia

Minister on Allegations of Human Rights Abuses

WS1504191894 Tallinn BNS in English 1317 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Tallinn, Apr 15, BNS—Accusations of human rights abuses and of plans of massive deportations brought against Estonia at a meeting of the Congress of Russian Communities in Moscow on Apr. 12 are political fiction, Estonian Population Affairs Minister Peeter Olesk said.

Olesk in an interview with BNS reminded that the accusers themselves are having much to be ashamed of in their own actions in the past, referring to Russia's centuries-old practice of deportation of people from occupied territories.

"They are now turning their own fears and sins against the country whose territory they are still partly keeping under control, by keeping their army here," the Estonian minister said.

The Congress of Russian Communities at the Moscow meeting addressed to the Russian president and the government an appeal from Estonia's Russian community, criticizing the policies of the Estonian authorities and calling for Moscow's help.

The document accuses Estonia of plans to start a massive deportation of its Russian-speakers, for which, it claims, concentration camps are being set up and a police special force created in the country.

"The Estonian people have repeatedly suffered massive deportations at least from the time of the Livonian war (1558-83) up until this century. This is a background that the West doesn't know or doesn't attach proper significance to, and it is our task to always remind of it," Olesk said.

The minister also underscored that emissaries from Estonia's regions of major Russian settlement who now frequent in Moscow to blame Estonia have no proper mandate, since they do not represent all Russians living in Estonia.

"On several occasions, Estonia's legitimate ethnically Russian citizens have asked me what kind of right does some of such emissaries have to speak in the name of all Russians living here," Olesk added.

Parliament Debates Law on Small Business Funding

WS1504110294 Tallinn BNS in English 0914 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] TALLINN, Apr 15, BNS—A new draft legislation that was under its second reading in the Estonian parliament Thursday [14 April] is expected to ensure more state-backed crediting for medium-size and small companies, opposition Centrist MP Kalev Kukk said in a press conference.

The general framework of the bill comes from Germany's experience in supporting its smaller industries, but nothing of this bill has been copied or simply taken over, Kukk explained.

The bill's main aim is to ensure that small and medium-size companies get access to the capital market. Although such companies are doing much to vitalize the country's economy, hardly anybody is eager to invest money in them. It is hard for such companies to get loans from banks and nobody is willing to stand as guarantor for their loans, Kukk said.

The bill foresees state support for the companies under two different schemes: government loans, or the government acting as guarantor for the companies' loans. Money for the loans would come from the state budget or from the foreign loans provided to the country.

The parliament today voted down a proposal to allocate 2.5 percent of the state budget for supporting smaller businesses.

Small and medium-size businesses under the draft legislation are defined as companies employing no more than 80 and with an annual turnover smaller than 15 million kroons (USD about 1.1 million).

The interest rate on loans to be provided to such companies should not exceed 7-9 percent, Kukk said, adding that this would be possible if the money be taken from non-profit funds.

Government Approves Temporary Travel Document Bill

WS1504191794 Tallinn BNS in English 1317 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Tallinn, Apr 15, BNS—The Estonian Government at its meeting on Thursday [14 April] approved a bill on the introduction of temporary travel documents for non-citizens.

The documents are to be issued to Estonia's permanent non-citizen residents who can no more travel with their Soviet passports. The document will be valid only for once leaving Estonia and one entry into the country. A new document has to be applied for if the holder wants to cross the border again, the draft stipulates.

The document will be valid for six months from issue and can be used only when travelling to countries which accept it as a travel document and put their visas in it.

The temporary travel document is a document for the transition period until Estonia introduces its aliens' passports, said Aino Leppik, adviser to the government.

Aliens' passports are currently in print and the country expects to start their issue in summer, she added.

Official on Domestic Market Protection

WS1504185294 Tallinn BNS in English 1502 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Tallinn, Apr 15, BNS—There is nothing to protect with measures for domestic market protection, since the level of development of Estonia's industrial sector is still too low, said Peeter Tohver, deputy chancellor for industry at the Ministry of Economics.

An open, painful economic policy helps to make clear with the help of competition, which companies are able to survive, but it naturally has a negative effect on the farm industry, he said.

Tohver, speaking at a meeting of the Estonian Union of Scientists Thursday [14 April], drew parallels with the situation of the first years of the 1918-40 Republic of Estonia, when a similar lack of capital and structural crisis hindered economic development.

Industrial sector accounted for 33 percent of Estonia's GDP in 1993, and no major changes are likely to happen this year, he said. He added that the share of industry in the GDP of Finland and Sweden, for example, was about one-fourth.

Industrial output in the country dropped 27 percent in comparable prices last year when compared with the year before. The decline was as big as 30 percent in state and municipally-owned businesses.

Also the uptrend in industrial output recorded at the end of last year again turned to a modest decline in the first months of 1994. The output level at the end of March equalled that of last year's late summer.

A big decline—from 250,000 in 1985 to 175,000 in 1993—has taken place in the number of people occupied in the industrial sector. About 10,000, or 6 percent of the total work force in industry, were employed by private companies in the sector last year. But they gave 26.5 percent of the total output.

Only the farm industry increased its share in the country's total industrial output. Energy sector kept its positions, whereas all others showed decline.

Latvia

Birkavs Gives Speech on Security

LD1504124294 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1104 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Speech by Latvian Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs at the Latvian University in Riga: "Latvian Security: Aspects of Internal and Foreign Policy"—live]

[Text] Hello, esteemed colleagues. I am very happy to be here at the university, this time as a guest, but I am convinced that the time will come when I will be again among you.

So: Aspects of foreign and internal policy of Latvian security. I would like to begin this lecture with the idea that Latvian security is a regional constituent part of European security and stability. The significance of this topic today (?stems) not only from increasing international instability and countless reasons for possible conflicts, but also (?from) a very emotional and politicized discussion in Latvia on the signing of a pact between the Russian Federation and Latvia. There is no shortage of the most diverse opinions and arguments. However, in spite of whatever I may say today, one always has to bear in mind that Latvian security can be, and is partly already, seen as a constituent part of European security and stability. That is the first point which underlies all my considerations. The second is Latvia's specific feature that our foreign and internal security are unusually and closely interrelated.

I will pay attention today primarily to the political rather than military aspect of security; not to mechanisms, but to trying to define the cornerstones of Latvian security and reasons for instability. I will also try to determine what the response to the development of the international situation should be.

First, I will talk about the practice in international policy at the end of the 20th Century; next, about Latvia's place in the new world order; and then about the fundamental dimensions of Latvian foreign policy and the aspects of internal policy in Latvia, and connection (?between them). At the end we will try to assess possible responses and actions, and the consequences of those actions for Latvia.

During the major part of the 20th Century, in spite of the talk about the collective security system and also in spite of some real efforts to put into practice such a security system, priority has always been given to military security doctrines and, correspondingly, to use of force. Therefore, the concepts of security and national security have been practically synonymous with military security in international practice. To a certain extent that was understandable, because there was not only confrontation between great powers and between groups of states, but there was also the active struggle to divide the world, to redivide it and widen spheres of influence. Thus, the criteria of security of great powers and national security were mainly directed not inward but outward, toward spheres of influence and hegemonic satisfaction of national interests far beyond state borders. The best and the most striking example, of course, though I would not like to say the best, is the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact of 1939 and the forceful incorporation of the Baltic states into the composition of the USSR in 1940.

Principles of European security have changed considerably and have acquired new dimensions at the end of the 20th Century. In order to avoid a crisis and to reduce instability in Europe, Europe directs its attention mainly toward the dimension of various international institutions. That means that the final aim of the international community is to achieve a stable system of collective

security so that its resolutions can also become significant. The concepts of classical security and security guarantees have become old-fashioned, and now participation in a collective security system comes into place as a guarantee. With this I want to stress that participation in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the North Atlantic Cooperation Council, the Partnership for Peace program, and other European institutions is already, in its way, the Latvian security guarantee, because with this we are a constituent part of that process.

What is an alternative to this participation? Only isolation and the prospect of being left in the dark zone. It was planned in Europe some time ago to create a network of interrelated institutes, which would provide an opportunity to use various methods of handling crises—both political and economic crises; but in finding a solution, we must apply in such crises only the method of talks—not military methods, even though the time has already come for military methods.

As the new world order after the Cold War is characterized by rather great disorder, and there are the most diverse sources of conflicts, the concept of security has acquired a new definition and we cannot allow ourselves to repeat the failures of the international system in the past, especially those that followed the end of World War I, when the principles of self-isolation and nationalized security were gaining the upper hand. With the strictly fixed positions of the Cold War disappearing, as well as the time when situations could be easily modelled, the time of set concepts has passed too. The situation in the world, in Europe, and in and around Latvia is very dynamic. The most pragmatic approach at the moment is clearly to formulate the fundamental basis of Latvian security policy and foreign policy—and only the fundamental basis—so that we can choose the most appropriate solutions for Latvia when the situation changes.

At the moment, the state president and the government of the Fifth Saeima of the Republic of Latvia have come to face a significant choice which is related to Latvia's international and national interests, the choice which will determine whether we get involved in the new world order or not. The cornerstone of today's dilemma is a draft treaty between Latvia and Russia. Succeeding in signing a favorable and necessary treaty for Latvia, we can prove that in the international arena we support the most significant post-war achievements: international cooperation and integration. The significance of this event puts forward the requirement to coordinate the adoption of national political decisions with the still changeable situation in international security.

In this context I would like to recall that the working principle of a team operates on both national and international levels. At the moment we are getting involved in the teams that are favorable for us. Such a team has evolved in the framework of the Baltic cooperation, and such a team is evolving in the whole European process. However, a national consensus, or a national unanimity, has not developed in Latvia, and there is substantial political fragmentation when it comes to making crucial decisions.

It would be possible to believe that Latvia is too small to influence events that constitute this planet's political life. In reality, however, for the first time in our country's history the opportunity has arisen for Latvia to contribute to European and global security and stability. That is exactly why the world pays such serious attention to the treaties and why there is such exceptionally serious cooperation among the world's great powers.

What would this contribution be like? First, if our process of reform is successful, it will become significant for European security in general, because the economy and security policy overlap to a greater and greater extent. In ensuring long-term stability, integration of economic nature is dominating, undoubtedly dominating, over traditional security structures. So, for example, while European countries are still giving priority to NATO as a security organization, in the future this priority will probably be directed toward the structures of the European Union and the Western European Union, in which one can see a greater long-term potential.

A cooperation agreement which is being drafted between Latvia and the European Union and the possible status of being an associate member in the Western European Union should be considered as the expression of Europe's confidence in Latvia, which requires adequate steps in response.

Our foreign policy should conform to the changeable international situation. However, a long-term vision is needed, a vision that will give insight into the degree of ability needed to respond adequately to the most diverse situations. Only our system of values in foreign policy, which is currently evolving, will ensure that we will not find ourselves in the dark and clouded part of the European security zone. We should agree even now on resources that have to be dedicated to support such a concept, namely, to ensure the full integration of diplomatic, economic, and military ability in the future.

Although we can consider our values and the intuitive logic of our position self-explanatory, we should not isolate ourselves from other views. A draft pact on the army withdrawal from Latvia and a compromise on the issue of the Skrunda early-warning radar system are evidence of the fact that the system of our values is European, because talks always follow weapons. If there are no talks, weapons start talking again. The signing of a pact on the withdrawal of the Russian Army from Latvia is the only real guarantee for the withdrawal of the Russian Army from Latvia by 31 August, the only real guarantee for ensuring the opportunity for international control over this process, the only real guarantee to

immediately begin the dismantling of the most dangerous part of the facility, i.e. the new Skrunda facility which, as long as it exists, if it is not dismantled, will always be a temptation.

The presence of the Skrunda facility on Latvian territory without an agreement determining a fixed deadline means uncontrolled functioning of this facility in Latvia indefinitely. The control of compliance with the agreement (?by) the trilateral commission, which also includes CSCE representatives, is an additional guarantee, in the same way that our participation in the Partnership for Peace program is an additional guarantee. The agreement will promote the opportunity for Latvia to cooperate with Western systems of collective security, and the president's visit to European countries is additional evidence. At the same time, it will prove that Latvia is a politically mature country able to carry out a policy of compromises in the interests of the international community, which in the end, are also Latvia's interests.

In the agreement, in addition to payment for the presence of the Skrunda radar station in Latvia, the Russian side also undertakes to compensate for damage done to the environment, if such is established. And it should be said again that European countries will actively support this compensation.

During his recent visit to Western Europe, the Latvian president received international support for setting up a special fund to eliminate ecological consequences of the Skrunda radar station and for dismantling the radar. Moreover, at 1100 today the government set up a special commission to create a special fund for the repatriation of discharged military personnel, to which funds from Western countries will be given.

The treaty on social protection for Russian military pensioners and their families does not provide for the status of these people in the Republic of Latvia. It will be set by legislation in the Republic of Latvia, and aspirations for citizenship are completely ruled out.

Of course, the treaties include certain compromises and must be regarded together. Nevertheless, causes should not be confused with consequences and the main task with a secondary task. There is no more important task for Latvia than to set a deadline for the withdrawal of the Russian Army, thus achieving a real withdrawal.

Now, thanks to the initialled treaties, Yeltsin's so-called error, and the activity of the people, we are acquiring an unexpectedly great opportunity not only to rid ourselves of the army, but also to free ourselves from the discharged military personnel in a civilized manner. We will never have the opportunity to involve Western money so actively in the promotion of a real, not imaginary, repatriation process. If we miss this historic opportunity, we might also lose our state and turn into a provincial decaying country in Russia's shadow. I do not wish this for Latvia.

If no agreement has been signed after 31 August and the Russian Army is still in Latvia, the army personnel will all be Grinblat's, Sinka's, Kirstein's, and Straume's [right-wing parliament deputies] godchildren or godfathers, because they will be left here with their blessing which, I assume, is based on patriotism and misjudgment of the situation.

It would be very easy for me to joint the critics of the treaty, and I would do so if I did not see all of the interconnections of the process. I ask you and myself: Why do the Latvian and Russian oppositions' opinions on the treaties coincide? Why are apparently diametrically opposed forces working as a unified front to stop the signing of the treaty? I can clearly see the development of the situation both if the treaty is signed or if it is not. It is important not to be manipulated and not to allow others to be manipulated. It is important to assess our historic prospects and to act cool-headedly. Through correct action we should also attest that the basic idea of the new world order is that this order is created through talks, and that large and small countries can become equal partners through talks, if they have allies.

We have to define the critical and global factors that can influence our country in the middle of the 1990's and in the 21st Century. What is the final aim of our foreign policy, the ability to guarantee, our ability to respond to future events that might threaten national interests? These threats, whether local or international, include demographics, social unrests, a conflict over minority rights, peacekeeping operations begun with a unilateral decision or for strengthening one's own security in other countries, political fragmentation, and economic decline. It should be clearly realized that real foreign policy cannot be based on several models simultaneously. Therefore, security policy, at least at the level of conceptual points, has to be above quarrels between political parties. However, discussions about foreign policy and security are unfortunately used to increase capital for internal policy.

What are the dimensions of Latvian foreign policy? We are striving for a new regionalism. In a more general sense this policy has already been crowned with Baltic cooperation in the framework of European integration and has marked a new element in the European architecture—five plus three, which is to be understood as the beginning of cooperation between the Nordic countries and the three Baltic states in the context of the enlarged European Union. The second element, the second circle, is the Union of the Baltic Sea countries, which as a regional organization outlines the Baltic region of northeastern Europe.

As for the second dimension, we want to continue placing increasing emphasis on the network of interrelated institutes in Europe. However, we must think not only about what we hope to receive from those institutions, but also about what we give to them. Not long ago Latvia's movement toward the European Community was a moving away from the former USSR, rather than

an approaching of Europe. With relations between Latvia and the European Union developing, our security policy in the European dimension has acquired the greatest significance. The status of member state in the European Union, toward which we are going, gives us security dividends which could prove to be decisive in a critical situation. Each step closer to the European Union in the economic sphere increases Latvian security. As early as the middle of this year, a free trade agreement with the European Union will apparently be concluded at an accelerated pace, which will become effective on 1 January 1995. That is not the price for the feeling of security: Economically, Latvia has no alternative. Of course, Latvia can direct its attention without great effort toward the wide Russian market or the markets of other CIS states. However, predicting future Latvian development, I am convinced that such an orientation will maintain the technical backwardness of Latvian industry. Moreover, we will needlessly put ourselves at risk because of that disordered and unpredictable market. This does not mean that we should reject a promising market. However, it is better to open it up with the European Union, rather than compete against it.

The European Union is our way and hope for the future. The free- trade regime will not apply to agricultural products. However, the transitional period is planned to last four years, during which we should agree on the principle of protection for the asymmetrical internal market. It is important for our farming and agriculture, quickly restructuring themselves, to be able not only to survive but to flourish.

The European Union plans to strengthen political dialogue with the Baltic states; after that, there will be preconditions which have to be met to secure the status of associate member. The strengthened political dialogue has already begun, and now you will see the results of this political dialogue. However, if we act incorrectly this political dialogue may die down. By granting the Baltic states the status of associate members, the European Union will clearly define the boundaries of its political interests, and that will definitely allow us to neutralize Russia's implementation of its concept of the near abroad in Latvia. In essence, defining our policy is defining where the West European border will be: in Zilupe [town in eastern Latvia on border with Russia] or on this shore of the Baltic Sea. This moment is a part of these days and these weeks. Each step we take now will either bring us closer to our goal or bar us from that goal for a long time, if not forever.

We have an opportunity to participate actively in the Western European Union, which is an organization like the military union of the European Union [as heard], which is practically the European pillar of NATO. I obtained arguments and evidence during my visit to the Western European Union and during the talks with the secretary general. But it is clear that it will be the Western European Union that will play the decisive role in the common defense policy of the European Union. A possibly higher level of participation for Latvia will allow us to work on the shaping of this policy from its origins. That is also the way we can come closer to NATO.

Latvian policy in relation to NATO is directed toward the status of a full-member state, toward the most serious security guarantees that Latvia can possibly get. There is very much to be done because we cannot be only security consumers. Changes in the international situation have changed the NATO philosophy. Therefore, the Partnership for Peace program has evolved, in which we can gradually develop, and we have begun to develop, an individual dialogue with the NATO alliance, corresponding to the possibilities and wishes of our country.

Partnership for Peace is one of those threads that has to be woven into the fabric of Latvian security. The government's aim in this economically difficult time is to find a balanced distribution of funds for tackling the many problems of the Latvian state. We have to understand, to analyze, and to be convinced how much we will pay for our security now and tomorrow. But we can talk about this only if this state, our state, exists.

The Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe is another element in the architecture of European security, in which professionals in diplomacy are actively working and which has already been involved in bringing order into Latvian-Russian relations. CSCE representatives will take part in the supervision of the agreement on the temporary functioning of the Skrunda radar station and the implementation of social protection for discharged military personnel. To be truthful, a whole range of foreign representatives is already here to ensure compliance with the treaty if it is signed.

The European stability pact, or Balladur plan, opens up new opportunities. Weekly and monthly we see it quickly become part of the common foreign policy of the European Union. Latvia has undertaken to become aware of the most essential problems of this pact. In the nearest future a large delegation will be here. My visit to France is also scheduled before the inauguration ceremony, at which that process will be launched. The inaugural conference of the pact is scheduled for the second half of May and presents a great opportunity for us in the interests of our security. Twelve countries of the European Union and nine countries to which this initiative directly applies, that is, the three Baltic states and Eastern and Central European countries, will take part.

In any event, Latvia considers that, apart from the consolidation of borders and the tackling of problems concerning minorities, round-table talks which are envisaged in the framework of the Balladur pact have to be given a wider horizon. Economic and social aspects of security and stability are also important here. But there is one very significant "if": if talks and decisions that will be passed, or are being passed, are worked out according to basic UN, CSCE, and European Union principles, namely that borders cannot be changed by force and that

they should be regarded inviolable. These issues should be discussed in the same way as other issues, like minorities' issues: considering the occupation of the Republic of Latvia, and legal and political aspects of the annexion which followed it, as a starting point.

We are also looking at security cooperation through bilateral agreements, several of which have recently been concluded. They are the threads based on common interests that connect us to individual countries. So, first Estonia and Lithuania. The road to Europe serves as the catalyst for Baltic cooperation. In their movement toward Europe, the Baltic states more and more clearly realize and more and more successfully implement this cooperation. Criticism that we do not coordinate our standpoint with Estonia is completely groundless. Tomorrow evening [15 April], I am meeting again with Estonian Premier Mart Laar. After each significant international or other incident the first talks we hold are between us and also with our nearest neighbor Bildt [as heard].

It is extremely necessary to coordinate among ourselves the participation of the Baltic states in new worldwide security processes, including the Partnership for Peace program and the stability pact, defining the status of participation in the Western European Union. The world community and international organizations have recognized the successful cooperation between the Baltic states, as well as the work we are doing to create the peacekeeping force battalion that will be preparation for participation in UN and other organizations' peacekeeping operations. I received more assurances just recently when I visited the United Nations. I should tell you, to calm you, that this does not mean that our boys will be immediately thrown into the hottest spots; this is the responsibility of the state, and there should be an agreement about where they are sent. In any event, the Nordic countries have begun their training. Yesterday I received assurances from and saw concrete steps taken by the Swedish commander in chief, who was on a visit to Latvia.

We are united with Scandinavia in the sphere of regional security by common interests, with an understanding of the independence of the Baltic states, and their significance in the security building of all of Europe. Scandinavian countries are actively implementing the so-called program for the support of sovereignty, which helps to ensure domestic order and stability in the Baltic states.

After Polish President Lech Walesa's visit, a new stage began in Latvia in Latvian-Polish relations. Latvia, Poland, and the other so-called Visegrad countries have common aims in coming closer to both European structures and NATO.

We have very highly commended Germany's and France's positive role in the development of the European Union. Germany, as a neighbor which is one of the great powers of the European Union and which is geographically closest to Latvia, has given us essential assistance, supporting our accelerated movement toward Europe.

I do not think a U-turn will appear in our relations if the treaty is not signed. The situation can, of course, be assessed in different ways, but all indications, direct and indirect, which are coming from the most diverse sources of information, are evidence that the decisive thing in our future relations not only with our neighbors but also with the partners of our longer-term orientation in Europe and the world is extremely dependent on our action at this time.

The first task for us all, when developing foreign and security policies of our state, is the following: We as a nation should be united on very significant matters. Therefore, national accord and political will to preserve a long-term adherence to the chosen strategy instead of jumping from one extreme to another are significant elements in our development. The national accord in the Czech Republic is the basis for its being the fastest developing country among all the Eastern European countries.

Speaking of our strategy, we should clearly define our nation's interests: the preservation of the Republic of Latvia as a free and independent country, in which democratic values are respected, a free market economy is being developed, and the protection of human rights is guaranteed; the economic development of the Republic of Latvia, which provides for the opportunity for individual well-being; and sound and cooperative relations with neighboring countries. Regardless of how the world order, the building of the world, changes, these interests and aims should remain for us unchanged.

However, political and ideological threats to national security stem not only from our international actions, but also from our internal situation. Organizations and groups which are against the state, which do not support the independence of our country, and whose aims are opposite to those of our country continue to be active in Latvia. One does not need to go far to find obvious examples. [Word indistinct] they manifested themselves in October 1993 during the Moscow putsch.

We are all worried about our country's future and our own. Our future and the stage of security are always dependent upon not only how we understand the situation, but on what we do. Individual insecurity of people and the feeling of being endangered also influence the country's political stability and public safety. I could mention many dangers to the state, and the discharged military personnel are considered to be a source of danger. At the moment the headquarters of the Northwestern Group of Forces pays pensions to 22,000 people. Their family members and children also live in Latvia, totaling approximately 100,000 people, or three percent of the Latvian population. Many of them are active in the Association for the Protection of Veterans' Rights.

I think that if these Russian Army pensioners really want to prove that they are loyal to Latvia, they should publicly admit the fact that Latvia was occupied. This is absolutely logical. It does not matter how long they have lived in this country or how long they hope to live. They should be loyal to this country and publicly admit unpleasant historical facts—the occupation of Latvia. Only then can we talk about other things. I think there is a possibility of their being used for various kinds of domestic destabilization. However, we should not create the image of an enemy. The problem of the military can and should be tackled in a civilized manner.

I have already said that we have the most favorable conditions to tackle this problem and to move forward considerably on this issue that is very painful and sensitive, not only for Latvia but also for Russia, because these are Russia's interests that are being implemented here through the military.

The aspects of internal policy can be analyzed from other angles—from the angle of the crime-related processes, in spite of the figures that show that crime is decreasing. However, there is a specific explanation for this, if viewed from the economic aspects which showed themselves very clearly at the time the concluding of agreements between Latvia and Russia entered the decisive stage. Indicators in March concerning west to east and east to west transit through Latvia increased dramatically, though at the moment they have died down dramatically.

Of course, internal security is also dependent on the level of social security and on a range of other factors which would have to be analyzed separately.

At the end I would like to say that we have to tackle our security problems, as I have said on many occasions, weaving thread by thread our security fabric, not simply in one move acquiring a ready-made bullet-proof vest. On his visit here, Swedish Prime Minister Carl Bildt also said that it would be ideal if from zero in security we would immediately get 100 percent, but that is impossible. Cooperation in both foreign policy and military spheres with NATO, the European Union, the Western European Union, the CSCE, and bilateral cooperation with countries that are also interested in tackling issues of vital importance for us should be considered as such threads. In reality we also have to weave this thread in Latvia, in our everyday life—in economic, social, and all the rest.

At the beginning of this discussion I already noted Latvia's specific feature, namely the fact that our foreign and domestic security are unusually closely related. Speaking of that, I thought that our society swayed as if it were on scales of balance. The slightest touch, each initiative in foreign policy, results in a very perceptible reaction on the inside, destroying the state of equilibrium of the balance. Why are we so sensitive in Latvia? What are the causes of tension in domestic policy? Of course, they are the poor state of pensioners, the bill on citizenship, the issue concerning the military, and the signing of the Latvian-Russian Treaty. It is very well understandable that the Latvian people are very worried about treaties. There is then, the historical damage, there is then the analogy with 1939, but it is forgotten here that the documents signed in 1939 began this process. These documents [the present draft treaty] will bring an end to the process that began in 1939.

Discussing today the signing of the treaty and creating a crises, we are unavoidably increasing Russian influence on the environment of our domestic security, which is evidence that one end of the thread in our security fabric is in Russian hands. We are staging rallies in connection with the signing of the Russian-Latvian Treaty. However, nobody rallies against Russia's pretensions in connection with the recent Yeltsin order. Therefore, opinions that direct the development of domestic policy from the state of equilibrium are in fact threatening the existence of our country. Our public with its sensitiveness in its turn, lead to perceptible enough attitude of Western countries. However, internally unstable countries cannot be and will not become equivalent participants in European institutions and processes. Agreements are the basis of relations with both East and West. However, they are not a guarantee. The guarantee is participation in processes. I would like to recall that if we act recklessly we will become a dispensable part of these processes. If we want to get involved in international relations, then our domestic policy problems have to be tackled according to the European system of values.

These relations open up the opportunity to tackle any conflict or threat on an international level. The 14th Clause of the Partnership for Peace program also provides for support and consultations in the event of a crises or threat to sovereignty and territorial integrity. As a member state of the CSCE, we brought the Yeltsin order, known to everybody, to the international arena, and made it known to the presiding country with a request to include it for discussion on the agenda of the Vienna group.

Only moving, weaving the fabric, we will be able to use each step that is directed against Latvia to strengthen our position in Europe and in the world. Our foreign policy initiatives have to find international support. Then we will strengthen our position in the new world order, then we will preserve our national interests in this changeable world, then we will ensure Latvia as an independent state in the future.

Forty-five minutes. Thank you.

Lithuania

Landsbergis Rebuked for Statement at Council of Europe

LD1604091394 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0600 GMT 16 Apr 94

[Text] During the visit by Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas to the Council of Europe, a statement by

Vytautas Landsbergis, a member of the Seimas delegation to the parliamentary assembly of the Council of Europe on Russia's intention to join the Council of Europe was distributed among the parliamentarians of this organization.

In this statement, the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry is accused of conducting a policy based on Moscow's directives, reads a statement by this ministry, disseminated by its information and press department.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs does not discuss the accusation, which is not based on any arguments, and stresses that such statements, which had more than once been publicly distributed abroad, harm the prestige of the Lithuanian state.

Lithuania's stance on Russia's membership in the Council of Europe is based on the following principles:

Russia must fulfill the conditions of the Council of Europe on the membership in that organization;

Lithuania will support Russia's membership in the Council of Europe only after Russia fulfills international obligations on the withdrawal of troops from Latvia and Estonia, respects the sovereignty of the neighboring states, human rights, and those of national minorities;

The support of the Council of Europe to Russia's democratic forces is a weighty contribution to the processes of democratization and the development of reforms in that country, says this statement in conclusion.

Foreign Ministry Denies Landsbergis Accusations

LD1504200394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1828 GMT 15 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladas Burbulis]

[Text] Vilnius April 15 TASS—A statement of Lithuanian Sejm opposition leader Vitautas Landsbergis on the Russian intention to join the Council of Europe and his accusations of "Moscow that allegedly commands the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry" was circulated in Strasbourg during a visit of Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas.

A statement of the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry circulated here today says such unjustified accusations affect the prestige of the Lithuanian state.

As for Russian membership in the Council of Europe, Lithuania will support it on condition of Russian observation of its international obligations as regards troops withdrawal from Latvia and Estonia and respect to sovereignty of the neighbouring states, human rights and rights of ethnic minorities.

Landsbergis Happy With President's Strasbourg Speech

WS1504185194 Tallinn BNS in English 1502 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] Vilnius, Apr 15, BNS—Vytautas Landsbergis, leader of the Lithuanian parliament's rightist opposition, expressed satisfaction with Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas' speech at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg Thursday [14 April].

"Most probably it was the first time that the head of the Lithuanian state criticized Russia's policy and leadership," Landsbergis told a news conference Friday.

In his words, until now, Lithuania carried out a timeserving policy with respect to Moscow. "I now see that the leadership of the LDLP (Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party) understands Russia's actual policy," Landsbergis said.

The opposition leader said he is not certain that the LDLP has decided to view things realistically, but such indications exist.

Landsbergis said a realistic view means "to give up "Moscowcentrism," inherited from Soviet times, when Moscow is understood as the big center where Lithuania's fate is decided.

"Possibilities to form not a post-communist-single-party, but a national policy may then appear."

Conservatives on Referendum on 'Illegal Privatization'

WS1504110694 Tallinn BNS in English 0914 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] VILNIUS, Apr 15, BNS - The Lithuanian Conservative Party announced its intention to initiate a referendum aimed at stopping illegal privatization and compensating devaluated savings of the population.

On April 21, the party will start collecting signatures under a petition demanding a referendum to adopt a constitutional law dealing with illegal privatization, devaluated savings and company shares, as well as violations of the law.

The party's board made the decision at its meeting Wednesday [13 April]. MP Gediminas Vagnorius, chairman of the board, said he is certain that such a law will be adopted.

The conservatives expect the law to restore order in the process of state property privatization, to compensate people's savings, to stop artificial bankruptcies and the downfall of production, as well as to enhance law and order.

300,000 signatures are necessary for the parliament to announce a referendum. The conservatives intend to

collect signatures for two months and expect the referendum to be held in September.

At a press conference Thursday, Vagnorius said other questions may be included in the referendum, as well, but he declined to specify any of them.

In Vagnorius' words, the property "privatized without privatization" is worth some 8 to 10 billion lits.

Court Deems Soviet Soldiers' Naturalization Unlawful

WS1504110394 Tallinn BNS in English 0914 GMT 15 Apr 94

[Text] VILNIUS, Apr 15, BNS - The Constitutional Court of Lithuania established that the parliament's decision allowing naturalization of former Soviet servicemen as Lithuanian citizens violates the Lithuanian Constitution.

According to an amendment to the citizenship law, adopted by the parliament last year, persons who served in Soviet armed forces and other repressive structures may be granted Lithuanian citizenship, provided they ceased service before March 1, 1992 and received Lithuanian citizen certificates before Nov. 4, 1991.

The court said dual citizenship is possible only in exceptional cases, while former Soviet servicemen were Soviet citizens and received Lithuanian citizenship certificates unlawfully.

According to unofficial reports, the amendment to the citizenship law may have affected around 800 former servicemen.

Government Asked for Funds To Air Russian Programs

MK1604122094 Moscow OBSHCHAYA GAZETA in Russian No. 15/40, 15-21 Apr 94 (Signed to press 14 Apr) p 2

[Unattributed report under the "From A to Z" rubric]

[Text] The Lithuanian Radio and Television Company board has requested that the Lithuanian Government appropriate money to air "Ostankino" television and "Mayak" radio programs. If the "top chiefs" agree, the programs will be aired daily starting 1800. According to Gediminus Ilgunas, the company's chief, this will cost 800,000 lits or around $200,000.